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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 18, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD T. REGAN

FROM: ^{cs} CARLTON TURNER

SUBJECT: Drug Abuse Policy Update and Projections

At a Senior Staff meeting, you asked about the scheduling of drug staffing activities leading up to September 9th.

On August 11, 1986, the Domestic Policy Council Working Group on Drug Abuse Policy held its first meeting. Following the demand reduction goals outlined by the President on August 4, 1986, we formed five task forces to develop recommendations for action:

- Legislative Review, chaired by Justice
- Drug-Free Workplace, chaired by Labor
- Drug-Free Schools, chaired by Education
- Treatment, chaired by HHS
- Private Sector Initiatives, chaired by ACTION

The task forces will present their preliminary reports at the Working Group meeting scheduled today. Tomorrow, the 19th, we will have a separate meeting with the Legislative Review Task Force to discuss status and follow-up action in that area. Meetings will be held with the other task forces throughout the week as the reports are reviewed and decisions are made concerning further actions.

On Friday, August 22, 1986, we will have a preliminary draft of recommendations together for review. Included will be a description of legislation, the probable cost, and recommendations for Administration support.

On August 22nd, we also expect to have the final draft of the Executive Order on a drug-free Federal workplace. There is opposition from certain staff members at Justice over substance and procedures surrounding drug testing. They want the Executive Order to be so rigid and air-tight that there would be little flexibility for department or agency heads. In addition, they are resistant to any actions which are not subject to full DPC debate. However, there is little time available for lengthy discussions.

During the week of August 25-29, 1986, the following will also be done:

- Updated Administration Accomplishments Report (draft for clearance and general distribution);

- Revised Administration Talking Points (for clearance and general distribution); and
- A compendium of drug-related events scheduled and proposed through January 1987 and recommendations for possible Presidential participation.

During the week of September 2-5, 1986, the following will be available:

- The final recommendations of the DPC Working Group on Drug Abuse Policy;
- A thematic communications approach to take us through the end of the Administration and make the President's program a self-sustaining effort that will continue into the 1990's.

We expect the DPC to meet during the week of September 8-12, 1986 to review the Working Group recommendations.

We sent a package of materials to the speechwriters last week. The package included issue and background papers, selected letters of support for the President's initiatives, selected articles and editorials representative of the recent change in public attitudes, and previous statements on drug abuse by the President and Mrs. Reagan. Updated materials will be provided to the speechwriters this Friday.

Issues:

We will receive some criticism from the departments and agencies because we do not have the time to run issues through the normal staff deliberations.

The initial reaction to the President's initiatives has generated a large number of suggestions and offers from the private sector. In the past we had a private consultant who was paid for by Customs and handled these projects for the West and East Wings. We no longer have this resource and, to be candid, it is going to be very hard for the Office to handle this level of activity without special assistance. Unless you have other ideas, I plan to ask Customs to restore this consultant for 180 days.

Earlier this summer, I had intended to appoint a 15-member Media Advisory Board to the Drug Abuse Policy Office. We have received support for this from the National Association of Broadcasters and others. Perhaps now it would be desirable for the President to establish this board -- a Media Advisory Board to the President? -- as an event during the break.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR JOE RODOTA

FROM: ^{ew} CARLTON TURNER

SUBJECT: Talking Points on Drug Abuse

Attached is my suggested revision of the draft talking points on the President's anti-drug initiative. I have also attached a copy of the original draft with our comments.

Joe, this initiative does not emphasize law enforcement, but focuses on a crusade to stop demand. The public accepts the fact that we must create an intolerance for illegal drug use in this country. The umbrella of strong law enforcement is necessary, but the key to long-term success is preventing people from starting illegal drug use and getting the drug users to stop. We cannot let this become a law enforcement approach or it will fail.

Please do not hesitate to call me at x6554 if you have any questions.

AMERICA'S CRUSADE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

- o Illegal drugs ruin lives, destroy families, and weaken entire communities. Drug abuse is not a private matter. For the sake of our Nation, it must end.
- o Drug abuse was a major national problem when President Reagan took office, and fighting drug abuse became one of the earliest priorities of his Administration.

The Reagan Commitment

- o In 1982, President Reagan published a comprehensive five-point strategy to stop drug abuse and drug trafficking. The strategy included international cooperation, drug law enforcement, drug abuse prevention, treatment, and research.
- o Thirty-seven different federal agencies are working together in the vigorous national effort.
- o President Reagan implemented a tough foreign policy to cut off drugs at their source.
- o Under the Reagan Administration, federal spending for drug law enforcement will virtually triple -- from about \$700 million in 1981 to an anticipated \$2.1 billion in 1987.
- o In 1982, the President asked the Vice President to establish a South Florida Task Force to respond to the drug trafficking emergency there. The effort pooled the resources of nine federal agencies, including the military, with state and local authorities.
- o The unprecedented successes of the South Florida Task Force led in 1983 to the creation of the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System -- now a model for coordinating interdiction efforts around all our borders.
- o In 1982, President Reagan set up the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces under the Attorney General to attack drug trafficking by major criminal organizations.
- o In 1981, Mrs. Reagan began a major program to increase public awareness of the dangers of drug abuse and to get people involved in helping young people "Just Say No" to drugs.
- o Since that time, the First Lady has traveled over 100,000 miles to 28 states and 6 foreign countries in her campaign. She has hosted two international conferences and has clearly become the national leader in the effort to stop drug abuse by young people.

The President's Program Has Made Gains

- o In 1981, one country was eradicating narcotic plants. Today, we have 14 countries and all 50 states eradicating.
- o Shortages in the marijuana supply are now being reported throughout the country, primarily as the result of eradication programs in Colombia and the United States.
- o Aggressive enforcement activity against cocaine manufacturers in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia is disrupting the flow of cocaine. U.S. helicopters have been aiding the effort in Bolivia.
- o Enhanced interdiction has increased U.S. seizures of illegal drugs. In 1981, we seized two tons of cocaine. In 1985, we seized 20 tons -- a ten-fold increase.
- o Under the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces, over 3,600 drug criminals have been convicted and more than \$300 million of their assets seized.
- o Since the First Lady became involved in 1981, the number of parent groups have grown from 900 to 9,000 groups nationwide. Our school-aged children have formed over 10,000 "Just Say No" Clubs around the country.
- o The number of individuals who are using illegal drugs has stabilized in most categories and decreased in several. Most notably, high school seniors using marijuana on a daily basis has dropped from one in 14 in 1981 to one in 20 in 1984-85.
- o The U.S. military has cut the use of illegal drugs by 67 percent since 1981.
- o Attitudes are changing. In 1985, 73 percent of our teenagers believed that possession of small amounts of marijuana should be treated as a criminal offense, compared to 44 percent in 1979.

The President's New Crusade Will Focus on the User

- o On August 4, 1986, President Reagan announced six new goals to build upon what has been accomplished and lead us toward a drug-free America:
 - Drug-Free Workplaces for all Americans;
 - Drug-Free Schools from elementary to university level;
 - Effective Drug Abuse Treatment to tackle the health dangers posed by drugs;
 - Improved International Cooperation to achieve full and active involvement by every country with which the United States must work to defeat international drug trafficking;

- Strengthened Drug Law Enforcement to take additional initiatives which will hit drug traffickers with renewed force.
- Increased Public Awareness and Prevention -- the goal on which success ultimately depends -- to help every citizen understand the stakes and get involved in fighting the drug menace.
- o President Reagan called for the commitment of all Americans in "taking a stand in every city, town, and village in this country and making certain drug users fully understand their fellow citizens will no longer tolerate drug use."
- o Although we must try to cut off the supply of illegal drugs, ultimate success depends upon stopping their use. This cannot be done solely by government programs; in fact, it requires the support and involvement of all Americans.
- o The President stated, "Our goal is not to throw users in jail, but to free them from drugs. We will offer a helping hand; but we will also...refuse to let drug users blame their behavior on others... And finally, yet first and foremost, we will get the message to the potential user that drug use will no longer be tolerated; that they must learn to "Just say no."

Will All Federal Employees be Tested For Illegal Drug Use?

- o The President's program does not include mandatory testing for all Federal employees.
- o Testing will be required for employees in positions which involve public safety, law enforcement and other sensitive areas. Many of these agencies already have testing programs in place.
- o For non-sensitive positions, the President would allow voluntary testing at the discretion of the agency head and would provide access to treatment and rehabilitation to those who are addicted.

A Role for All Americans

- o President Reagan believes there is an important role for each American in this effort. The task at hand is to fight illegal drug use in every segment of our society. There is a role for parents, teachers and students; for industry and labor leaders; for White House officials and the military; and for the entertainment industry and the news media.

"The time has come for each and every one of us to make a personal and moral commitment to actively oppose the use of illegal drugs -- in all forms and in all places. We must remove all traces of illegal drugs from our Nation."

-- President Reagan
July 30, 1986

AMERICA'S CRUSADE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

Illegal
 ○ Drugs ruin lives, destroy families, and weaken entire communities. Drug abuse is not a private matter. For the sake of our Nation, it must end.

○ ~~Fighting drug abuse became one of the earliest priorities of this Administration.~~ Drug abuse was a major national problem when President Reagan took office, ~~but in 1981 the national emphasis was only on heroin addiction.~~ *and fighting drug abuse became one of the earliest priorities of this Administration.*

The President's Commitment

○ Under the Reagan Administration, federal spending for drug enforcement will virtually triple -- from a little over \$700 million in FY 1981 to an anticipated \$2.1 billion in FY 1987.

○ Twenty different federal ^{enforcement} agencies are working together to stop drugs and drug abuse.

○ In 1981, President Reagan ^{signed legislation} ~~urged Congress to authorize~~ the military to assist ~~in certain~~ drug enforcement activities, ^{IN 6} ~~New legislation was written specifically to allow the use of military personnel and equipment in detecting air- and sea-borne drug smugglers.~~ *primarily*

○ In 1982, the President asked the Vice President to establish a South Florida Task Force to respond to a narcotics trafficking emergency there. It was an interagency effort that used Customs and Coast Guard resources and additional investigators and prosecutors to stop drug smugglers.

○ Since 1982, the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces ^{established by President Reagan} ~~have~~ won indictments against 9,453 suspected drug traffickers. Nearly nine out of ten of all defendants adjudicated were found guilty or pleaded guilty to at least one charge. More than \$300 million dollars in cash and property were ~~have been~~ confiscated.

○ In 1983, the unprecedented success^{es} of the South Florida Task Force led to the creation of the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System -- now a model for coordinating interdiction efforts.

○ U. S. helicopters have been aiding Bolivia in its fight against cocaine manufacturers. The Associated Press reported that in less than a month the raids ~~had~~ ^{have} stopped 90 percent of the flow of cocaine from Bolivia.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

WHITE HOUSE TALKING POINTS

The President's Accomplishments

- o Enhanced enforcement activity has increased seizures of illegal drugs. In 1981 we seized two tons of cocaine. In 1985 we seized 20 tons -- a ten-fold increase.
- o *The use of illegal drugs*
~~Drug use~~ has stabilized in most categories since 1981 and has declined in several.
 - The number of high school seniors who regularly use marijuana has dropped by about 50 percent since 1980.
 - Use of tranquilizers, stimulants, PCP, and LSD among high school and college students has also declined since 1981.
- o ~~Increased awareness has led~~ A majority of our teens ~~to~~ *identify* ~~realize~~ that drug and alcohol abuse is their generation's biggest problem, according to a Gallup Poll taken last year.
- o The First Lady has played a special role in teaching our Nation's children to "Just Say No" to drug abuse. In 1981, 900 parents groups were fighting drug abuse. Through the First Lady's efforts, the number of parents groups nationwide has grown to 10,000 *and drug awareness of drug problems has*

The President's [Redoubled Efforts] Will Focus on the User

- o President Reagan has developed new initiatives in the fight against drug abuse that ~~focus primarily on the user. The President knows that simply throwing money at our drug problem will never work as long as the demand continues.~~
- o The President has approved a broad six-point effort to mobilize all Americans in the fight against drug abuse. The President's program focuses on:
 - 1) Drug-Free Workplaces -- to protect the public and the workforce and to increase productivity.
 - 2) Drug-Free Schools -- all schools, elementary through university level, must be free of drug use and experimentation.
 - 3) Expanding Drug Treatment -- drug abusers must seek treatment. Health dangers posed by drug abuse are more evident than ever. Researchers must develop more effective treatment methods.

WHITE HOUSE TALKING POINTS

I don't think so

- 4) Expanding International Cooperation -- improve enforcement cooperation with all countries where there is a link to America's drug problem. President Reagan has already ordered some of our ambassadors to return home for consultations on how to improve international cooperation in the fight against drug abuse.
- 5) Greater Coordination of Law Enforcement -- stronger and more visible drug-law enforcement at all levels is needed to disrupt drug trafficking and deter individual use.
- 6) Expanding Public Awareness and Prevention -- ~~attitudes have changed from the 1970s when some people actually advocated the legalization of street drugs.~~ President Reagan will encourage more private businesses and employee and citizen groups to fight drugs.

Negative approach

Will All Federal Employees be Tested For Drug Abuse? - Answer

- o The President's program does not include testing for all federal employees
- o The President believes federal workers, who have a record better than the national average for keeping drugs out of the workplace, should set an example for the rest of the Nation.
- o It is a responsibility federal workers should be proud of.
- o Drug testing will soon be implemented in FAA control towers and other places where safety is critical. Law enforcement agencies and national security agencies have testing programs in place. *our military forces*

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A Role for All Americans

- o President Reagan believes there is a role for every American in this effort. The task at hand is to fight drug abuse and to set an example. There is a role for parents, teachers, and students; for industry and labor leaders; for White House officials and the military; and for the entertainment industry and the news media.

The time has come for each and every one of us to make a personal and moral commitment to actively oppose the use of illegal drugs -- in all forms and in all places. We must remove all traces of illegal drugs from our Nation.

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WHITE HOUSE TALKING POINTS

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-- President Reagan
July 30, 1986

Tuesday, August 5, 1986



BERNIE BOSTON / Los Angeles Times

President Reagan during his White House address on drugs.

Reagan Outlines Goals in Anti-Drug Crusade

President, Cabinet May Take Tests as Example in Increased National Effort to Curb Trafficking

By ELEANOR CLIFT, *Times Staff Writer*

WASHINGTON — President Reagan called on the American people Monday to join him in a national crusade against drugs, pledging that he and his Cabinet would be willing to be among the first government workers to voluntarily take urine tests to set an example toward his goal of a drug-free workplace.

"Drugs, in one way or the other, are victimizing all of us," Reagan said in an afternoon speech at the White House that outlined six broad goals in his fight against

drugs but offered few specifics on how he would achieve them.

Briefing Republican congressmen before the speech, Reagan set a 50% reduction in drug use in the next three years as his target and vowed that his stepped-up war on drugs will mean "Pearl Harbor for the drug traffickers."

Will Summon Ambassadors

To dramatize his determination to drastically reduce drug supply and demand, a White House official said that Reagan plans to summon the U.S. ambassadors to more than a dozen major drug-producing countries, from Bolivia to Pakistan, to the White House this fall to discuss ways that the Administration can help foreign governments cut drug production.

The official, speaking on the condition that he not be identified, said the Administration would like to encourage other foreign drug busts similar to Operation Blast Furnace in Bolivia, where the U.S. government provided helicopters and support troops to Bolivian drug fighters.

At the same time, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said it is unlikely that the Administration will ask for an increase in funding to combat drugs until fiscal 1988, which begins Oct. 1, 1987. Instead, Reagan's much-ballyhooed program will depend largely on his ability to persuade the country into adopting the First Lady's slogan to "just say no" to drugs.

When asked if he was "going to

Please see DRUGS, Page 13

DRUGS: Reagan Launches New Crusade

Continued from Page 1

take this away from Mrs. Reagan," who had been the Administration's primary anti-drug advocate, Reagan drew laughter when he responded: "Do I look like an idiot?"

Still, with drugs an increasingly potent political issue, Reagan is in an election-year bidding war with congressional leaders of both parties on who can capture the public confidence first when it comes to combatting drugs. "This is chapter one, more to come," Reagan said, serving notice that he intends to continue speaking out against drugs.

Today, House Democratic leaders, including Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts, will join forces with their Republican counterparts in the chamber in an appeal to television networks to mount a major campaign against drugs.

While the details of the Administration's program are still being worked out, Reagan appeared eager to stake his claim in time to capitalize on the wave of public concern about drug abuse sparked by the recent deaths of athletes Len Bias and Don Rogers.

Leading Reagan's list of six sweeping goals is a drug-free workplace in the public and private sectors. Although Reagan said he favors mandatory drug testing "where the employees have the

health of others and the safety of others in their hands," he stopped short of endorsing it for all government workers, calling instead for voluntary testing.

Reagan's second goal is drug-free schools, which the Administration intends to encourage by proposing that federal funds be withheld from educational institutions that do not have active anti-drug abuse programs.

His third goal involves more and better drug treatment facilities, a glaring need as the country tries to cope with the influx of "crack," a highly addictive and inexpensive form of cocaine.

Fourth, Reagan called for more international cooperation in the war against drugs, reminding his audience that a presidential direc-

tive he signed earlier this year declaring drug abuse as "a threat to our national security" paved the way for U.S. military assistance in the Bolivian crackdown.

Fifth, Reagan endorsed "prompt and severe punishment" for drug peddlers, "the big guys and the little guys."

Lastly, Reagan said he wants to expand public awareness about the dangers of drugs.

As an example of the kind of attitudinal change he would like to see, he recalled how, in the past, Hollywood movies typically played drunken scenes for a laugh. With increased knowledge about alcohol abuse, he noted, "you rarely see a scene for straight comedy of someone being drunk."

INSIDE A SOVIET MENTAL HOSPITAL

Newsweek

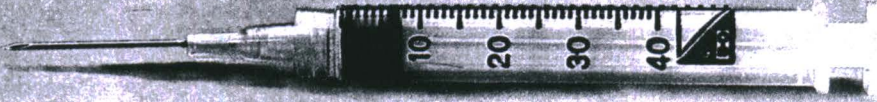
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THE DRUG CRISIS

'Saying No!'



The Nation's New
Campaign Against Users



A Poll on Drug Testing,
Enforcement and Privacy

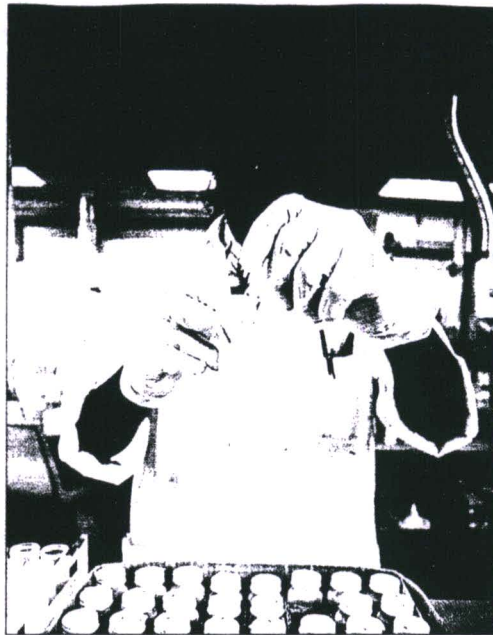


An Exclusive Interview
With President Reagan



The Drug Crisis: Trying to Say 'No'

Despite all the arrests and huge drug seizures of recent months, there has been hardly a ripple in the tide of illegal drugs. Slowly, the nation is deciding to try a new approach: if we can't curb the drug supply, maybe we can cut the demand by going after users. That requires nothing less than a change in the national attitude toward drugs, but the process has already begun. As political pressure mounted in Washington, Congress started work on a tough new drug bill and Ronald Reagan moved to seize the issue by announcing his own demand-side program this week. It was more jawbone than bite, and its centerpiece was a controversial order to start drug testing on federal employees in sensitive jobs, so it was sure to be assailed from all sides—but it will probably do some good. A new NEWSWEEK Poll shows strong public support for cracking down on users. **National Affairs: Page 14**



Testing for drugs: A controversial key to the plan

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Cover: Photos by Ed t

Social Sisters

Once a bastion for wealthy, well-bred women, the Junior League now wants a grittier image. The prim and proper organization has taken off its white gloves to tackle such unladylike problems as adolescent pregnancy and rape. But social activism and social status often clash, creating new social problems for the league. **Lifestyle: Page 42**



The Junior League's new image



Drugged, silent—but unbroken

Simply Divine

It's a miracle no one thought of it before: a Jesus theme park, part Disneyland, part summer retreat. TV evangelist Jim Bakker is developing Heritage USA, a family entertainment center near Charlotte, N.C., with tennis, camping and weekly baptisms. For "Christ-loving people," says one follower, it's nirvana. **Society: Page 46**

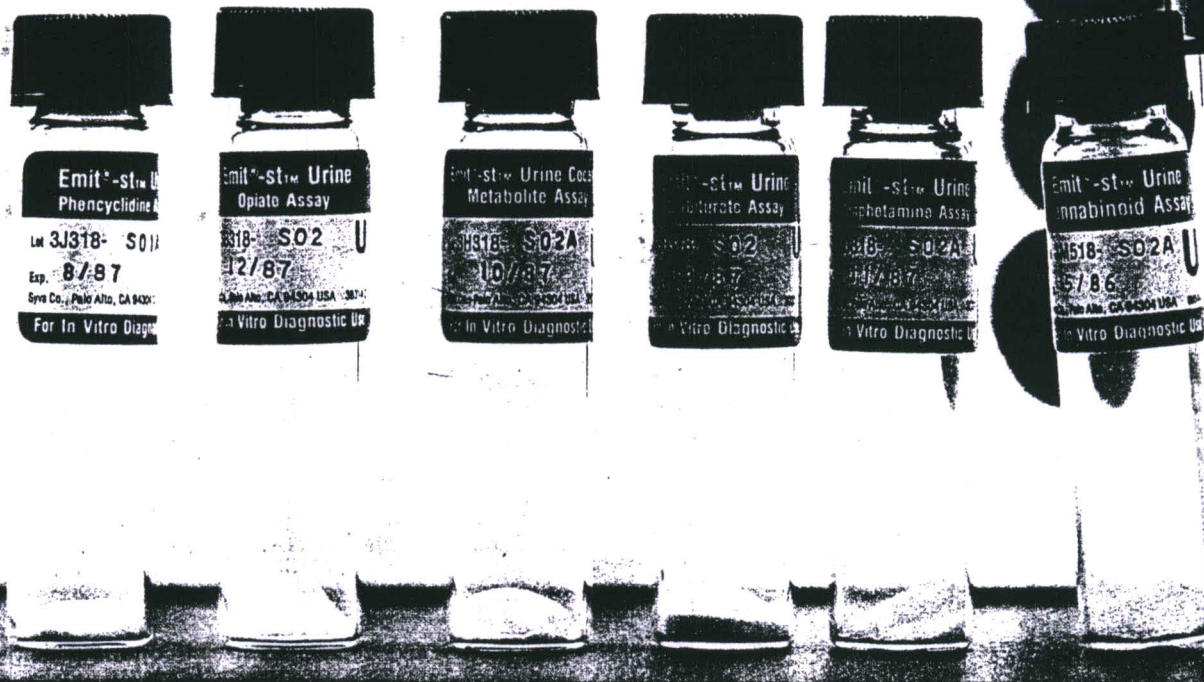


A \$175 million high-tech shrine

Letters to the Editor should be sent to NEWSWEEK, 444 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022, and subscription inquiries to NEWSWEEK, The NEWSWEEK Building, Livingston, N.J. 07039. NEWSWEEK (ISSN 0028-9604), August 11, 1986, Volume CVIII, No. 6, is published weekly, \$41.00 a year, by NEWSWEEK, Inc., 444 Madison Avenue, N.Y. N.Y. 10022. Second Class postage paid at N.Y., N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTERS: Send address changes to NEWSWEEK, The NEWSWEEK Building, Livingston, N.J. 07039.

A Mind Jail

For the offense of asking to leave the Soviet Union, a little-known Soviet dissident is thrown into a Moscow mental hospital, where burly orderlies and nurses forcibly inject him with drugs that blur his mind but not his spirit. Serafim Yevsyukov has not made headlines, and he doesn't fit into the neat categories of more famous Soviet dissidents. His plight is still no less poignant—and it is chillingly common. His daughter makes a painful visit to his hospital, where psychiatry serves the state. **International: Page 26**



The bite in the jawbone: Urinalysis for federal workers in sensitive jobs was the controversial centerpiece of the president's plan to att

Trying to Say 'No'

THE DRUG CRISIS

It should have been a triumph in the annals of drug enforcement: the biggest cocaine haul in U.S. history, more than 200 pounds of dope with a street value of \$30 million, scooped up last week in a raid on a dilapidated farm in western Michigan. But in the modern drug wars, the victory was a hollow one. Everybody knew it would make only a momentary ripple in the tide of narcotics flowing into the nation; the drug epidemic would rage on. And across the country a sense was growing that another approach to the problem has to be tried. If we can't shut off the supply, maybe we can shrink the demand—by somehow persuading drug users to turn off, or never to turn on in the first place.

It is a formidable task, requiring no less than a basic shift of the national attitude toward drugs. But that is already happening in a piecemeal way, from vigilante committees in a dozen urban ghettos to drug-education programs in suburban high schools to crackdowns on local users from Michigan to North Carolina. And this week Ronald Reagan planned to scurry to the head of the growing parade by announcing his own demand-side drug program, a combination of moral suasion, education and drug testing for key government workers. In all, the plan looks to be far more jawbone than bite. But in an exclusive interview with *NEWSWEEK* (page 18), Reagan said it would "not be rhetoric . . . The main thrust has got to be to get the people themselves to turn off on [drugs]."

ior aides. "And who better to do it?"

The president decided it was time to move when his pollster Richard Wirthlin showed him a sharp rise on the fever chart of drug concern. A similar message has been received in Congress, where members are scrambling to write tough new drug laws and grab the credit in time for this year's elections. More than 300 members have signed a letter to the television networks for delivery this week, asking for a concerted campaign to educate young people to the dangers of drug abuse. But the congressional emphasis is still on the supply side of drugs: Democrats are working to put together an omnibus bill stiffening penalties for pushers, strengthening customs and border patrols, outlawing synthetic drugs, hitting at money laundering and beefing up treatment and prevention programs. Republicans plan amendments to make the bill even tougher, possibly including the death penalty for some drug dealers and tough new sanctions against countries that don't cooperate with drug-eradication programs. Price is no object, the lawmakers say. "We intend to bust the budget on this," vowed Democratic congressional campaign chairman Tony Coelho.

They had better be prepared for a sizable tab. Drug enforcement is already a \$1.8 billion item, versus just \$230 million spent on drug and alcohol treatment and education programs. At the cutting edge, the Drug Enforcement Administration is averaging 41 arrests a day, an increase of 18 percent in two years. Seizures of contraband cocaine soared to an annual rate of 43 tons in the first three months this year, up from 19 tons in all of last year and just 12 tons in 1984. Still, there is no shortage; indeed, if street prices are any guide, there may be a glut. According to necessarily iffy surveys, the number of regular cocaine users,

which apparently peaked in the late '70s, has remained at about 5 million ever since. But individual consumption has been rising so fast that total cocaine use went up by 11 percent at last count, and the spread of riskier, high-purity cocaine and the potent new crack has heightened the sense of crisis. Heroin and marijuana consumption was down a bit, but total use of illegal drugs rose by 15 percent. And whether or not more enforcement will do any good, it will surely be costly. Democratic Rep. Glenn English of Oklahoma has introduced bills meant to stem the flood of drugs with more agents, planes, boats and radar. The added cost: nearly \$1 billion.

Busting users: Latin American officials and a few drug enforcers have long charged that the policy of busting major dealers and letting users go actually encourages demand for drugs. "You can't accept recreational drug use and expect to control the drug problem. That's where it begins," says Lacy Thornburg, North Carolina attorney general. His state police recently began rounding up and prosecuting users and petty dealers. In another approach, the Detroit suburb of Farmington Hills passed an ordinance last year making people over 17 legally accountable for permitting drug use or sale on their property. The public is increasingly willing to consider cracking down on users; a new NEWSWEEK Poll showed a startling increase in support for criminal penalties for possession of marijuana and overwhelming backing for drug testing of people in critical jobs (page 16). And the White House has come to agree that its priorities have been skewed. "We are responsible for driving the drug market to where it is today," said one administration official. "We have essentially decriminalized drug use by not doing anything."

In part, the change in the public mood has a racist tinge: drugs simply have moved from the black and Hispanic underclass to the middle-class mainstream and are being felt as a problem there. Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis surveyed 5,000 of his state's high-school students in 1984 and found that 60 percent admitted having used illegal drugs. Cocaine and marijuana have become commonplace in factories and business offices: in California a sting operation by the San Jose police uncovered a Silicon Valley company where 90 percent of the work force of 400 people were using drugs. Alarm over drug abuse tends to lag behind its spread: police in the Chicago area say drugs are pervasive there, but the epidemic is not yet the stuff of commuter chat and TV talk

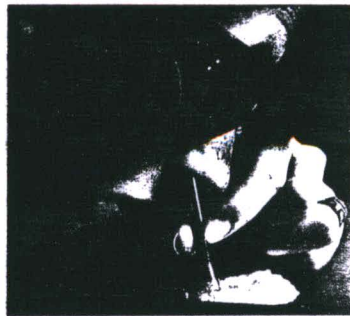
WOODFIN CAMP & ASSOC.

tack the demand side of drugs

The plan is sure to be attacked on all sides—for going too far, and not far enough; for shoving a camel's nose under the tent of civil liberties; for trying to make political points with a sham program for the private sector backed up by no more than \$500 million in federal money. But the demand-side theme is one that Reagan himself has been sounding since 1981, when he told his second presidential press conference: "It is my firm belief that the answer to the drug problem comes through winning over the users to the point that we take the customers away from the drugs." Since then, Nancy Reagan has been doggedly pushing the point with her "Just Say No" crusade in the schools and pressing the entertainment industry to deglamorize the treatment of drugs in films, TV and music (page 20). And the stress on the bully pulpit rather than the federal purse is one that makes Reagan thoroughly comfortable. "Look, this is a sales job," said one of his sen-

Users, One and All

- 5 million regular cocaine users
- 20-24 million have tried cocaine
- 563 cocaine-related deaths
- 30% of all college students will have tried cocaine by their fourth year, and 42% have tried marijuana
- 500,000 estimated hard-core heroin users



TANNENBAUM-SYGMA

SOURCES: 1985 DATA, PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON ORGANIZED CRIME, NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE, INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

Down on Drugs: A Newsweek Poll

A new toughness on drugs is reflected in the sharp increase in support for treating possession of even small amounts of marijuana as a crime. And while most Americans favor testing all workers for drug use, they emphasize treatment and see education as the key area of government action.



ROBERT MAASS—PHOTOREPORTERS

Yes to Drug Tests

Some people think that periodic screening tests are a good idea to see whether individuals may be using drugs. Other people think such tests are a bad idea because they may not always be accurate or because they invade people's privacy. For each of the following groups, please tell me if you think it would be a good idea or a bad idea if they were required to take periodic drug-screening tests:

	Good Idea	Bad Idea
High-school teachers	64%	33%
Airline pilots	84%	14%
Police officers	85%	13%
TV, film and recording stars	52%	42%
High-school students	60%	37%
Professional athletes	72%	25%
Government workers	72%	25%
All other workers	50%	44%

Which *one* of the following actions do you think an employer should take against someone who is identified as a drug user through a screening test? Should the employer:

Report him to the police	5%
Fire him immediately	5%
Fire him after a set period of time if a test shows that he is still using drugs	15%
Don't fire him, but require his participation in a drug treatment program	60%
Do nothing unless his work is clearly affected by his drug use	13%

Do you think the possession of small amounts of marijuana should or should not be treated as a criminal offense?

	Current	1985	1980
Should	67%	50%	43%
Should not	27%	46%	52%

Priorities and Resources

Do you think the government spends too much money and effort fighting drug use, too little money and effort fighting drug use—or is the government's expenditure of money and effort just about right?

Too much	9%
Too little	56%
About right	21%
Don't know	14%

There are many things that our government is doing to fight drug use. Which one of the following activities in the government's fight against drugs do you think deserves the most money and effort? Which is the next most important?

	Most Important	Second Most
Arresting the people in this country who sell drugs	23%	31%
Arresting the people who use drugs	3%	5%
Teaching young people about the dangers of drugs	42%	24%
Helping drug users to overcome their addiction	4%	12%
Working with foreign governments to stop the export of drugs to this country	25%	23%

Which of the following do you think is the most serious problem for society today: marijuana, alcohol abuse, heroin, crack, other forms of cocaine or other drugs?

Crack	22%
Other forms of cocaine	21%
Heroin	5%
Marijuana	4%
Alcohol abuse	34%
Other drugs	5%
Don't know	9%

shows. Still, the fact that it has become a national political issue is itself a sign that a good part of what the president wants has already happened. "I am very optimistic," says Carlton Turner, Reagan's adviser on drug abuse. "I think we have gone up that hill and are going down the other side."

According to White House sources, Reagan saw Wirthlin's polling figures late in May and decided to make drugs a high priority; the schedule was speeded up after the cocaine death of basketball star Len Bias. The project touched off considerable debate in the administration, since it hit an ideological sore point that already divides conservatives: while authoritarians are happy to enforce traditional social values, the newer libertarian wing of the GOP wants to minimize the government's role. One school, led by Attorney General Edwin Meese, argued strongly for such measures as widespread drug testing of federal workers. But others, including communications director Pat Buchanan, argued that drug use should be a personal matter unless it endangered lives or national security.

In the end, Reagan chose the softer line, on the ground that any program touching off a firestorm of protest would be counterproductive. The death penalty for drug dealers was out, though some of his advisers urged it. So was stepped-up prosecution of casual users: not only did the budget makers worry about building enough prisons to hold them, but Reagan himself argued that the goal should be rehabilitation, not punishment. Details of the program are still evolving. Its outline:

■ **Testing:** Department heads will be asked to designate federal workers who have security clearance or hold such sensitive jobs as air-traffic controllers or armed guards. If they refuse drug tests, they will be shifted to less sensitive jobs; if the tests turn up positive or they admit a drug problem, they will be offered treatment. Researching the proposal, aides found that federal insurance benefits for drug-abuse treatment were wiped out in a budget cut in 1982. Ways are being studied to restore them. But the government unions indignantly threaten to fight the whole plan in court.

■ **Education:** The administration will encourage schools to suspend drug users and pushers. Some aides wanted to tie federal funding for schools to a showing that a school has a strong drug program, but Reagan was against it. The main goal is to create an atmosphere in which peer pressure can work against drug use.

■ **Private industry:** More than half of regular drug users are over 18, and the administration wants to reach them at work. It will encourage business to screen for drugs before hiring; federal contractors could be offered incentives to set up effective industrial drug programs.

■ **Enforcement:** The Justice Department is

For this Newsweek Poll, The Gallup Organization interviewed a representative national sample of 758 adults by telephone July 31 and Aug. 1. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percentage points. Some "Don't know" responses omitted. The Newsweek Poll. © 1986 by Newsweek, Inc.



JAMES MARSHALL



IRA WYMAN

Counterattack on two fronts: Black Muslim vigilantes zero in on a crack house, fourth graders in Boston learn what isn't cool

working on proposals for stiffer drug penalties, including mandatory minimum terms for some dealers and possibly mandatory life sentences for convicted drug racketeers, but these will come later. For now, the president would only flick at the supply side with a reference to increased activities in the "southwest border initiative," newly named "Operation Alliance."

International programs: Reagan would like to invite other countries to request U.S. help in eradicating the drug trade, as Bolivia recently did. But he didn't welcome—in fact, his aides ridiculed—Bolivia's subsequent request for a \$100 million loan to offset the loss in drug income. Cutting off U.S. aid to countries that fail to reduce drug production, a practice last used by the Carter administration, may soon be invoked for three or four countries.

The price tag for all this remains a bit gauzy. Reagan himself said the question was still open; his aides indicated that spending on the program might amount to \$500 million, not all of it new money. There was predictable grumbling that the president was trying to dump the problem on the private sector. "Companies are being asked to solve one of the major social problems of this country because nobody else will," complained Dale Masi, a professor at the University of Maryland who has designed employee drug-assistance programs for major firms. But Dr. Robert Pont, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse until 1978, said Reagan's program "shouldn't be underestimated. I think he can do a lot. And it's

wonderful that it's moved from being his wife's concern to being his concern as well."

Not everyone was thrilled by that development. As White House aides acknowledge, Mrs. Reagan's drug campaign began as an effort to recast her initial image as a superficial clotheshorse, but it quickly turned into genuine anguish over the problem. And in some of the nation's ghettos, the president was seen as an intruder. "No one has cared about ghetto children dying, except for Nancy Reagan," said Earl Horn, a leader of Oakland's drug-fighting Neighborhood Watch. "I'm sorry to see him taking it away from her."

Still, the nation's neighborhood vigilantes—who shout down armed dealers, surround crack houses to keep their children out and telephone tips on drug activity to sometimes lethargic police—will be glad of any reinforcement the president's jawbone

can drum up. So far, their victories have been mainly symbolic. "Sure, the drug dealers go from neighborhood to neighborhood," says the Rev. Bruce Wall, founder of Boston's Drop-a-Dime telephone alert, "but at least we have them on the run."

The change in public attitude should also encourage community participation in broader programs of drug education and rehabilitation; in Atlanta, for instance, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is trying to muster black leaders behind a multifaceted attack on drug-related crime. And the new climate may help coordinate local groups and public officials who now tend to squabble over competing goals and ideologies. "The real problem in Michigan has been groups fighting with one another," says a Detroit official who has grappled with drugs. "We need a coalition. We've got to remember who the enemy is."

A climate that needs changing: A Washington head shop

SUSAN T. McELHINNEY



What's reasonable? Even as it was watered down, by far the most controversial part of the Reagan program is the proposal for testing federal workers for drugs. Civil libertarians tend to assume such tests must be an illegal invasion of privacy. But the courts have generally upheld them, and about 30 percent of all Fortune 500 companies used some drug tests last year. In fact, the constitutional ban on unreasonable search and seizure applies only to governments, and Reagan has already established the reasonableness of testing for drugs as the employer of military personnel.

Still, problems remain. Critics warn that the usual pre-



JAMES COOK—PICTURE GROUP

'Everyone has to work': Talking about cocaine in a Denver counseling session

liminary test, based on urinalysis, is often inaccurate. Even by the reckoning of its producer, the test may give a false positive in 1 out of 20 cases; if a second and far more expensive confirming test isn't given, the victim of the error may be wrongly rejected, stigmatized or fired. And as a matter of both law and social policy, it is far from clear that an employer has any right to probe into a worker's conduct unless it affects performance on the job. Most businessmen say that's all they want to know. But as the tests actually work, a joint smoked at a weekend party is just as incriminating as one smoked at the lathe.

Earlier this year the President's Commission on Organized Crime recommended mandatory drug testing for all federal employees. The White House considered that; in the upshot, the softer-edged approach of singling out sensitive jobs was chosen. But Reagan's aides made it clear that they see this as just a first step that can be expanded as public acceptance grows and the anti-drug climate deepens. Reagan himself disclaims any such intention, but at least some of his men say that, eventually, drug testing could be mandatory for college programs and defense contractors.

Climbing the wall: Drug-education plans are far less controversial. One catch has been persuading schools, particularly affluent suburban schools, to admit they have a problem; another is teaching parents to recognize drugs and drug symptoms. But nearly everyone now concedes that the plague is all but universal. "We can build a 100-foot wall around our kids and the drug dealers will just build a 110-foot ladder over it," says Barbara Kopans of the highly acclaimed Governor's Alliance Against Drugs in Massachusetts. "You can go just so far with police enforcement before you have to start looking at the demand side."

The drug squads have found that there is a predictable progression in drug use: children almost never try cocaine, crack or heroin without having first used such "gateway drugs" as tobacco, alcohol and marijuana. And sadly, the need for education about drugs seems to start at ever-younger ages. In Boston, high-school kids advised the teachers to talk to their little brothers and sisters; in Detroit, police said it was too late to start with 12-year-olds and sent the drug squads to kindergarten.

Successful school programs tend to have

'Nobody else cared': Nancy Reagan pushes the point

GAMMA-LIAISON



features in common. One is the effort to catch drug abuse at its earliest stages and get parents involved in the problem. In Atlanta, for instance, the Council on Alcohol and Drugs puts any child caught with drugs at any of seven school systems through an eight-hour seminar and insists that at least one parent must attend, too. About 700 students were treated last year, and the council says only 2.5 percent of its graduates get into trouble again. On a broader scale, successful programs enlist all the help they can get for a unified assault on the problem. The Massachusetts Alliance has spread to more than 200 of the state's 365 cities and towns in two years, and advisory councils are used to coordinate the efforts of local schools, community organizations, law officers, state agencies and private corporations. So far the program has cost about \$2 million in state funds, and the DEA expects to spotlight it soon as a national role model.

Scare tactics: One major hitch remains: nobody can show conclusively that drug-education programs do any good. Early in the century, programs based on moral arguments clearly failed to dent alcohol and drug abuse. Exaggerated scare tactics, like the pamphlet and film on "reefer madness," led only to ridicule. In the 1960s straightforward presentations of the pleasures and dangers of drugs proved equally futile and may even have made drugs more attractive to curious youths. The fashionable focus of educators now is on peer and

family influences, trying to teach children simply to reject drugs as uncool. Practitioners are enthusiastic, but a NIDA review noted last year that the worth of this approach remains to be proved.

The one conclusion that the nation seems to be forming is that something new must be tried to discourage drug use. There is clearly no magic bullet, and the task won't be done overnight; as a Virginia doctor warns, "Everyone has to work. It has to be a true concerted effort." But the determination alone is changing the climate already, and the recent limited successes of campaigns against tobacco and drunken driving show that such change is indeed possible. If Ronald Reagan is jumping to head a movement that other people started, he is just functioning as a political leader—and in the end, he will probably help it along.

LARRY MARTZ with MARK MILLER and BOB COHN in Washington. GEORGE RAINE in San Francisco. GINNY CARROLL in Atlanta and bureau reports

Reagan: Drugs Are the 'No. 1' Problem

The president wants a campaign aimed at users

Ronald Reagan is putting the power of his office behind a new national crusade against drug abuse. Last week NEWSWEEK Editor-in-Chief Richard M. Smith, Washington bureau chief Morton M. Kondracke, White House correspondent Margaret Garrard Warner and correspondent Elaine Shannon interviewed the president on his views.

NEWSWEEK: Why a war on drugs at this time?

REAGAN: I think the increasing problem has made us finally aware that what is really needed is a nationwide campaign, not just [by] government. The polls show that this is, in most people's minds, the No. 1 problem in the country. It is not only necessary to step up our efforts to make it difficult to get drugs, but the main thrust has got to be to get the people themselves to turn off on it.

We understand there are going to be some initiatives involving federal employees and the use of drug tests. Is that true?

Well, there has to be. For example, you can't have people in law enforcement, you can't have air-traffic controllers and so forth [and] have this [drug use] be a possibility.

Do you think people with security clearances fall into that category?

I would think yes, that's legitimate.

Will you be asking your department heads to select those jobs that they consider safety or national-security related and ask the people who hold those jobs to take these tests?

I think it's all right to have it mandatory. People who have other people's safety in their own hands—I don't think that they should complain about mandatory testing.

Would you favor drug testing for all federal employees?

I would rather see a voluntary program in which we can say to them ... that they won't lose [their] jobs and there won't be punishment. What there would be is an offer of help to tell people, if this is your problem let us help you cure yourself of addiction.



LARRY DOWNING—NEWSWEEK

in the Oval Office: Is it a real war?

Are you, in fact, going to ask your cabinet officers to submit to testing on a voluntary basis ... and ask their subordinates to [do so]?

Yes, this is under discussion right now and I have already suggested such a thing to our top people.

Are you at all concerned about the privacy issue that is raised by mandatory drug testing?

If the mandatory [testing] is only in those areas where you can show the kind of responsibility for national security, for people's lives, I don't think there can be a quarrel.

If this is a real war, are we going to devote the resources to it, the money to really fight it, or are we going to try to nickel-and-dime it or handle it by rhetoric?

No, [it's] not going to be rhetoric. And it's possible there will be more need for money. On the other hand, you can't underestimate what can be done [by] the private sector ... [that] is being administered by the private sector because of the help of volunteers—no one can estimate the amount of money it would take to replace these volunteers with bureaucrats.

Should drug users go to jail?

No, I think we should offer help to them. ... We can't overrule states and their laws, but I do think that as a part of a campaign of the kind that we're talking [about] ... my own view is [we're] far better off if ... you can come in and ask for help and you won't be punished if you will agree to take the help.

Should drug dealers be executed, as Malaysia did?

While we haven't come to final decisions on this ... I know they deserve it. But ... I would think that we might be taking on something that would divide our ranks because there are so many people who don't believe in the death penalty for anything. My own view is that a death penalty would be counterproductive.

You've described America as "apbeat, optimistic"—why are drugs such a problem now?

For one thing ... the music world ... has ... made it sound as if it's right there and the thing to do, and rock-and-roll concerts and so forth. Musicians that young people like ... make no secret of the fact that they are users. [And] I must say this, that the theater—well, motion-picture industry—has started down a road they'd been on before once, with alcohol abuse. I can remember when it was rather commonplace in films ... to portray drunk scenes and so forth as being very humorous. And the motion-picture industry decided some time ago that that wasn't right for them to do ... and they stopped. And yet, recently, there have been some pictures in which there was a gratuitous scene in there just for a laugh [about] drug use, that it made it look kind of attractive and funny, not dangerous and sad.

To what extent is the problem with Hollywood that a lot of people out there are using [drugs] themselves?

That again—that is at a level of society where ... they have a dinner party and feel they have to put the drug out on the coffee table, as at a cocktail party. And yes, that has to be dealt with, that particular problem.

Did that happen when you were there, when you were at such parties?

No, the drug thing hadn't hit Hollywood.

No one ever tempted you?

What? No, but all the things that are going on today—it's a different industry.

● Going After Hollywood

Critics call for the deglamorization of drugs



JERRY OHLINGER'S

Smoking pot in 'Easy Rider': Today, the sniggery cachet of a pseudo-taboo

"We believe that many fewer younger Americans would turn to drugs if they fully understood the facts, if they were aware of the stark histories of hopeful lives snuffed out by drugs," the writers declare. "We are therefore calling upon the television networks . . . to design and broadcast a major national campaign against drug abuse. . . . an unprecedented, coordinated offensive against the culture that encourages the use of cocaine, crack and other dangerous drugs."

That letter, signed by more than 300 members of Congress, will be delivered to ABC, NBC, CBS and Cable News Network this week—a sure sign that the sudden national uproar over drugs and drug abuse has reached politically critical mass in Washington. How the four networks will reply remains to be seen, of course, but given broadcasting's position as an industry that is at least nominally regulated under federal law, some form of positive response seems likely. The entertainment industry as a whole may be quite another matter: 20 years into America's dangerous flirtation with mood-altering substances, Hollywood remains deeply ambivalent about drugs and hostile to the suggestion that it condones or promotes drug use. The days of outright glorification, as in the 1969

film "Easy Rider," are probably over: one studio executive claims the viewing public is simply "bored" by the subject. But drug abuse is freely depicted in many recent movies, and like sex and alcohol years ago, it has the sniggery cachet of pseudo-taboo.

Needless joke: Nancy and Ronald Reagan were offended by a needless joke about pot in the movie "Short Circuit," and drug crusaders can cite similar examples by the dozen. Some say, for example, that "Miami Vice" glamorizes drug trafficking despite its pro-cop orientation and its formulaic insistence that the good guys always win. Woody Allen joked about both pot and cocaine in "Annie Hall," and the 1978 film "Midnight Express" sympathetically portrayed the tribulations of a young American drug smuggler in a Turkish prison. Marijuana use appears in movies like "About last night . . ." and "The Big Chill," and it is casually presented in teenybopper films like "Desperately Seeking Susan." "Why did little kids go to see 'Susan'?" asks antidrug activist Susan Newman, who is actor Paul Newman's daughter. "Because of Madonna. And what did they see Madonna doing throughout the movie? Smoking marijuana."

Ms. Newman is special-projects director for the Scott Newman Foundation, an

organization founded by her father after the 1978 death of her brother Scott from an overdose of Valium and alcohol. The foundation works to reform Hollywood from within—prodding the industry toward a more realistic, less glamorizing depiction of drugs and promoting the presentation of anti-drug-abuse themes. Those goals, Newman admits, are hardly popular in an industry which still remembers the witch hunts of the 1920s and '50s, and progress has been frustratingly slow. And though, as she says, "there's still a lot of denial going on in this town," she also believes that "a real change has gone down in just the last 18 months." Shocked by the death of John Belushi and by Richard Pryor's disastrous brush with cocaine, Hollywood has gradually begun to recognize the downside of drugs: Pryor's new film, "Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life Is Calling," is a painfully candid *mea culpa* about addiction. The networks, meanwhile, have begun to discourage gratuitous references to drugs in TV scripts, and drug use on the set—commonplace in the relatively recent past—is now actively discouraged.

Dismal results: Reforming the entertainment media's approach to drugs, however, is damnably difficult business. Drugs are, after all, an undeniable presence in American life and are therefore a legitimate subject for serious films and video. Hollywood has tried self-imposed censorship before, with dismal results—and it is a matter of considerable irony that the power of the industry's morality code was decisively broken, in 1956, by a highly acclaimed film on heroin addiction, "The Man With the Golden Arm." Even more pertinent, given Washington's new demand for antidrug preachments, the entertainment media have rarely succeeded at propaganda. Take the classic antimarijuana film "Reefer Madness," for example. Produced in 1936 in an effort to warn the nation against a new social menace, it is now considered a camp comedy on college campuses.

Hollywood's own drug mores, moreover, are likely to undermine whatever antidrug message it may promulgate. Drug scandals have periodically shaken the industry since its earliest years and will doubtless continue: as Newman says, the current climate of disapproval is mostly denial—or hypocrisy. "Believe me, Perrier is the drug of choice in Hollywood," one producer said in a Los Angeles restaurant last week. "No one uses drugs anymore." Meanwhile, a diner at the next table was leaving three lines of cocaine as a tip.

TOM MORGANTHAU with MICHAEL REESE in Hollywood and ANDREW MURR in New York

White House, Congress and the media join the offensive

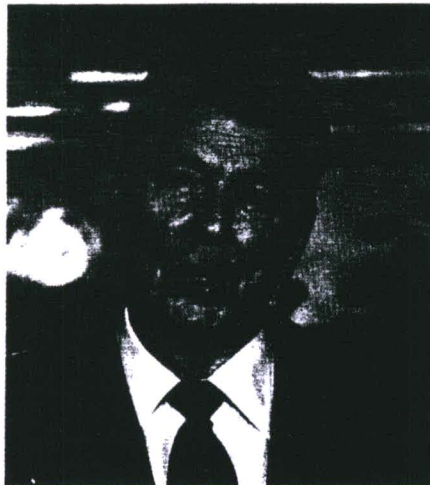
Drugs: Now prime time

■ With public outrage over drug abuse reaching a new crest, Ronald Reagan caught the wave. "The time has come," the President said on July 30, "to give notice that individual drug use is threatening the health and safety of all our citizens."

Indeed, to many who have served on the front lines in the nation's drug war for the past two decades, it seems that the time, finally, has arrived. Evidence is everywhere. And the issue comes at an opportune moment for Reagan, who could use a diversion from economic problems and challenges to his policies on trade and sanctions against South Africa. Stepping into an arena he previously left to First Lady Nancy Reagan, he prepared to announce the first details of his own antidrug plan in early August.

On Capitol Hill, more than 80 pieces of legislation are pending, and leaders in the House promise quick action. "I've never seen this electricity since I've been in Congress," says Representative Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), a 16-year Capitol Hill veteran. The press, meanwhile, is keeping a spotlight on the issue, as is the unprecedented U.S.-Bolivian drug operation.

Rising antidrug sentiment is being fed by fears of a deadly substance called crack and by the recent deaths of sports stars Len Bias and Don Rogers. Says Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal, president of New York City's Phoenix House



'We are no longer willing to tolerate illegal drugs'

Foundation: "The deaths of those young men are like lightning rods."

Skeptics predict that the furor will die down quickly. But others believe the summer of '86 will be a watershed: "We're on the verge," says Bill Rhatigan of the Advertising Council, whose antidrug ad has become so popular that broadcasters are requesting new tapes after wearing out old ones. "On this issue, we're ready to go over the top."

Some liken the antidrug atmosphere to the fight against drunk driving in the

late 1970s and the push for handgun control and tougher crime laws in the 1960s. "My God, look at the parallels," says Howard Simons, curator of Harvard University's Nieman Foundation. "Guns had always been part of society. But it took the deaths of the Kennedys and Martin Luther King to shed light on them. Tragic death is frequently what you need to set the spark."

The deaths of Bias and Rogers further churned waters that have been boiling for a long time. Some evidence:

- Crack, a form of cocaine virtually unknown a year ago, has rocketed from near obscurity to national villainy in the past six months. Deaths, addictions, disruptions in family life all have eroded cocaine's image as a passive plaything of the well-to-do. Now the jury is back, and its verdict is irrefutable: "Cocaine can kill."

- In the nation's schools, as drug use reached epidemic levels, Education Secretary William Bennett became the first cabinet official to spotlight the problem. In March, he called for a "total drug ban" at colleges and universities, and for his pains he was labeled a "small-town-PTA president." Underterred, he has intensified his rhetoric.

- The news media, fired by the crack scare, jumped on the drug story with a vengeance. *Newsweek* ran two cover stories only three months apart, and newspapers have examined the problem on their front pages day after day. The

SPOTLIGHT ON COCAINE

■ Pro baseball is providing \$2 million in antidrug advertising time on radio and TV. Stars such as Mike Schmidt of the Philadelphia Phillies spread the word: Drugs are deadly.

COCAINE: THE BIG LIE
1-800-662-HELP



■ By all accounts, Len Bias used cocaine only once, on June 19. But once was enough to kill the University of Maryland star seen as a likely superstar in pro basketball.



■ Eight days after Bias died, Don Rogers, 23, a football player with the Cleveland Browns, was killed by cocaine. He was to wed his college sweetheart the next day.

■ A close friend of Bias, Brian Lee Tribble, 24, is suspected of supplying the drugs that killed the athlete. Tribble, below at center, was indicted for possession of cocaine and PCP with intent to distribute. Bias and Tribble often played basketball together, and the two men shared an enthusiasm for clothes and cars.



focus of much reportage has changed. Robert DuPont, president of the Center for Behavioral Medicine, says the media traditionally have covered the drug issue as a "controversial issue, sort of a pro-and-con kind of argument." Adds the Nieman Foundation's Simons, former managing editor of the *Washington Post*: "Now, all you get is the con: The message is drugs are bad. Period."

In cities and suburbs, the message has been on the streets for months—but it finally is getting back to official Washington. For House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Tex.), the message hit right where he lives. A poll of his Fort Worth district showed that 82 percent of 30,000 respondents believed drug use was a serious problem in their neighborhoods. Admits Wright: "I was stunned." The problem has become so serious, he and Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill (D-Mass.) say, that politics must take a holiday.

To capitalize on the public's heightened concern, Congress will try to move fast. House committee chairmen have been ordered to report all bills by August 11, and O'Neill plans to send the entire package to the floor by September 10. It will deal with five areas: Eradication of drug crops at the source, interdiction along U.S. borders, stepped-up enforcement within the country, education and treatment of drug users.

The effort is billed as bipartisan, but there are obstacles. Democrats emphasize education of youth and rehabilitation of users while the GOP wants stricter enforcement and stiffer penalties for traffickers—some even calling for the death penalty. The hitch: In the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget-cutting era, who will pay for more judges and jail cells? Or for that matter, the

rest of the five-point program? Aides to Robert Michel (R-Ill.), the House Republican leader and an enthusiastic supporter of the program, put the price tag at up to \$3 billion, raising the prospect of new spending, which is anathema to Reagan.

The President will unveil his full program in a televised speech in September. It could prove controversial. Like the Democrats, Reagan focuses on users—only he would spend much less—shifting perhaps \$200-\$300 million from existing programs. Drug screening and testing of federal employees also is being weighed, and the administration intends to beef up antimuggling efforts along the southern border, probably using military aircraft. The White House denies that the program is meant to steal the Democrats' thunder on drugs, but a key aide says: "Both parties want to do something, and this is a case of keeping the President out front."

What will come of all this concern and activity? "It won't last," says actor Paul Newman's daughter, Susan, who heads a California antidrug foundation named for her brother, Scott, who died of drug-and-alcohol abuse in 1978. "We've seen false starts before."

Others are more optimistic. James Wilson, a Harvard professor of government who was chairman of the National Advisory Council for Drug-Abuse Prevention in the early 1970s, argues that real progress won't be made until drug use is seen as socially unacceptable. "That's what happened with drinking and driving," he notes. "With all the concern we're seeing now over drugs, it may be that drug use is passing through the same kind of barrier." ■

by Brian Duffy with Jeannye Thornton, Kenneth T. Walsh and James M. Hildreth

CELEBRITY DEATHS

Grim roll call of two decades

Len Bias and Don Rogers were only the latest public figures to suffer drug-related deaths. In the past two decades, drugs have taken their toll of a wide range of prominent people. Some examples:

David Kennedy, son of the late Senator Robert Kennedy, 1984, cocaine, Demerol and Mellaril.

Ronald Roberts, son of evangelist Oral Roberts, 1982, suicide resulting from drug addiction.

John Belushi, right, comic, 1982, heroin and cocaine.

Louis Jourdan, Jr., son of actor Louis Jourdan, 1981, unprescribed drugs.

Sid Vicious, British rock star who killed a girlfriend, 1979, heroin.

Scott Newman, son of actor Paul Newman, 1978, pills and alcohol.

Elizabeth Anne Moore, sister of TV and movie actress Mary Tyler Moore, 1978, unspecified drugs.

Keith Moon, member of popular British rock group the Who, 1978, combination of drugs.

Jimi Hendrix, rock guitarist of international fame, 1970, heroin.

Janis Joplin, leading female rock vocalist of the 1960s, 1970, heroin.

Judy Garland, singer and actress, 1969, sleeping pills.

Diane Linkletter, television actress and daughter of Art Linkletter, 1969, LSD.

Lenny Bruce, right, iconoclastic comedian noted for his foul language who influenced a generation of comedians, 1966, unspecified narcotics.

Dorothy Kilgallen, newspaper columnist and TV personality, 1965, barbiturates and alcohol.



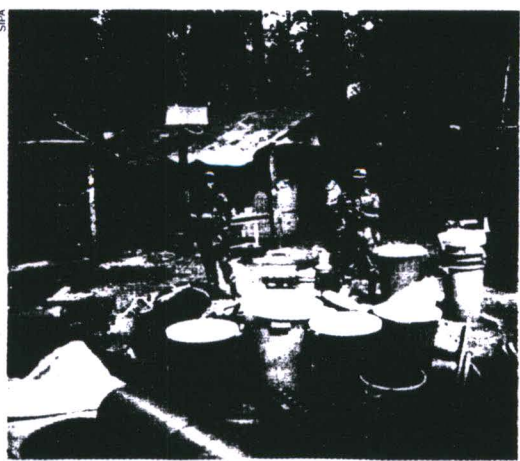
STEVE BUDT—STAR FILE



AP



■ Barry Word, top, a former football player at the University of Virginia, pleaded guilty on July 29 to conspiring to distribute cocaine. Teammates Kenneth Stadlin, center, and Howard Petty, below, also are charged in what authorities described as a four-state drug-selling ring. Police said Word first used cocaine at parties where "the drug was laid out for the taking."

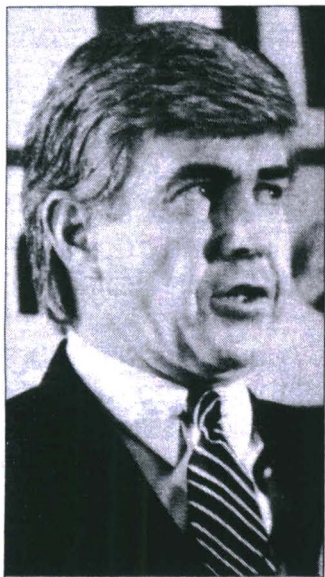


■ U.S. troops were dispatched to Bolivia in July to join local authorities in raids on cocaine-producing laboratories

Warning Signs

Bush and Kemp face problems ahead

Despite a heavy last-minute push, strategists for George Bush are worried that he could lose next month's 1988 presidential delegate-selection contest in Michigan. Their concern: TV evangelist Pat Robertson's increasingly high-gear campaign in the state. To build

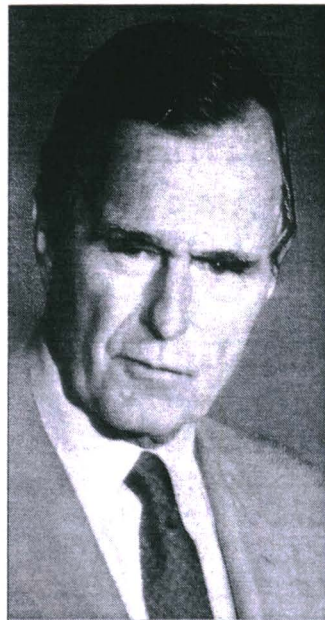


JAMES COOK

In double trouble? Kemp

support, Robertson last week established an official presidential "exploratory" committee, enabling him to engage in wide-ranging organizational and fund-raising activities without violating federal election law. And by some estimates he will more than match the \$1 million Bush is expected to spend on the race. To counter Robertson, Bush aides are beefing up his Michigan operation with experienced Washington staffers, seeking quick cash from top contributors and organizing a direct-mail, get-out-the-vote drive. "We underestimated [Robertson] once," said one key Bush backer. "We don't want to do it again."

■ Expecting their man to finish a distant third in the Michigan contest, strategists for conservative GOP Rep. Jack Kemp are now downplaying his efforts in the state. Though Kemp is still making trips to Michigan, his supporters say they will spend no more than \$300,000 there—compared with at least \$1 million each for Bush and Robertson. Kemp aides are also



LARRY DOWNING—NEWSWEEK

A last-minute push: Bush

worried that he will show up poorly if the television networks conduct "beauty pageant" exit polls on election night. Political experts expect such polls to favor Bush, who is likely to do well in traditionally Republican areas where turnout is comparatively high. "If that happens we could get hit twice—once from the precinct [delegate] results, which Robertson could win, and then again from the exit polls," says a top Kemp adviser.

Drugs: A Plan to Curb Demand

With the nation's drug problem growing steadily worse, the Reagan administration is scrambling for a new strategy. Privately conceding the failure of efforts to block narcotics at the border, Reagan officials now plan a stepped-up campaign to curb domestic demand. Under serious consideration: a new antidrug commission—cochaired by a corporate leader and a high-ranking administration official—to coordinate public and private education and prevention programs. Top contenders to head the panel are baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth and Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca.

■ Congressional Democrats think that weakness in Reagan's antidrug record may help them in the fall elections. A new private poll shows voters more willing to support the fight against narcotics than the Star Wars program, and Democratic strategists plan to stress administration funding cuts for the Coast Guard and other efforts against drug smuggling. The poll also shows strong support for spending on education and health care for the elderly.

Early Lessons

Education Secretary William Bennett is sharpening his pencils for a major new report on elementary schools. Based on recommendations of a task force of educators, "First Lessons" will offer good news about the quality of education through the fourth grade—after which performance declines. The report is expected to identify problems in the science and history curricula and recommend that schools return to reading materials with literary or historical merit, such as classic fables. It also will call for civics lessons and improved arts education for primary schoolers. Bennett will finish writing the report this week, for release around Labor Day.



LANA SWINDLER—ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION

Good news, bad news: Bennett visiting a classroom

Y'all Come

Los Angeles industrialist Armand Hammer is quietly lobbying for Mikhail Gorbachev to visit southern California if he comes to the United States for a summit meeting with Ronald Reagan later this year. Associates say the Occidental Petroleum chairman has hand-delivered to Gorbachev an invitation from the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. And L.A. sources say that Hammer and Reagan chum Walter Annenberg are also planning a Hollywood gala for the Soviet leader and his wife, Raisa. Sure to be on the guest list: Dustin Hoffman and Jessica Lange of "Tootsie," said to be one of Gorbachev's favorite films.

LUCY HOWARD with bureau reports

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON — Starting today, accused drug pushers may have bail revoked if they go near city parks. ... Statehouse ceremony marked USA's 1st state-designated Korean War Veterans Day. ... **LAWRENCE** — Group of 50 artists today will discuss plan to buy old textile mill, convert it to studios.

USA Today

7/27/86

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 1986

We must attack the drug buyer as well as the dealer

By Eugene H. Methvin

Special to The Journal-Constitution

Last spring the 18-member President's Commission on Organized Crime, of which I was a member, touched off a sharp national debate by proposing widespread on-the-job testing of workers in both government and industry to detect and discourage illegal drug use.

The commission concluded Uncle

Eugene H. Methvin is senior editor of Reader's Digest.

Sam's war on drugs cannot succeed if millions of Americans can with impunity plunk down hard dollars for illegal drugs, inflicting brain damage on themselves and risk to others. (The scientific evidence is overwhelming.)

The best estimates are that the nation has more than 20 million regular marijuana users, 6 million regular cocaine users and about 500,000 heroin users. They create and feed a violent and criminal \$110 billion industry. We must attack not only the producers, smugglers and dealers, but the buyers. *The user is part of the traf-*

ficking.

The commission qualified its testing recommendation by the terms "suitable" and "appropriate," which it nowhere defined or detailed. Many journalists transformed this vague suggestion into reports the commission flatly recommended the testing of all government employees, and even all American workers.

Immediately, civil libertarians and political allies of government employee unions leaped to the barricades, conjuring up horror stories suggesting innocent workers could be dismissed for eating rolls sprin-

kled with poppy seeds and such. Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.) of the House Civil Service Committee fired off a letter to President Reagan declaring the commission should be awarded a "prize for the most idiotic recommendation of a presidential commission."

Other voices supported drug testing as a vital weapon in the war on drugs. Rep. Clay Shaw (R-Fla.) asked his staff how they felt about it. After a short debate



these people, who serve south Florida citizens on the firing line, unanimously agreed to take the test. Sen. Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.) ordered her staffers to take urinalysis tests, declaring: "Unfortunately, what passes for civil liberty today, for some, most often resembles individualism gone beserk, self-indulgence in full bloom."

Drug abuse in the work place costs the American people billions in lost productivity, unnecessary accidents, property damage, injury and deaths. A physician-consultant to auto industry unions estimates more than a third of all auto workers use drugs on the job, and lost productivity and increased injury claims due to drug and alcohol abuse combined add an estimated \$175 to the price of each car American consumers buy.

The Associated Builders and Contractors, embracing 18,000 member firms, estimates at least 20 percent of all construction workers have a drug or alcohol abuse problem. The association says firms that have begun drug testing find within three to six months accidents drop by more than 30 percent, absenteeism declines and quality control improves.

Despite the alarmist claims of the libertarians, tests with near 100 percent accuracy do exist. Moreover, the American military's experience confirms that random testing programs can sharply reduce drug abuse. In 1974 a court decision forbade such tests in the services as "self-incrimination." But in the face of growing abuse and a few disasters, such as the carrier USS Nimitz airplane crashes that were linked to marijuana use, the judges reversed

themselves in 1983. After testing began, surveys showed illicit drug use dropped from a prior 47 percent in 1980 to 7 percent in 1985.

A recent nationwide poll shows an overwhelming 77 percent of Americans would not object to being tested in the work place. And 66 percent support mandatory drug testing for federal workers and employees of government contractors; 29 percent oppose. But the split is almost even, 43 for and 48 against, on drug testing in private industry.

In the aftermath of the controversy over the presidential commission's drug-testing suggestion, three other commissioners and I spelled out what we would consider guidelines for suitable and appropriate testing:

"It would be a heedless waste of public resources to test all federal employees in a campaign against illegal drug use. We have no indication that drug use is so widespread as to warrant blanket testing. Yet, certainly the federal government and its employees should set an example for the rest of the nation. Working for Uncle Sam is a high privilege, as is evident by the perpetual surfeit of federal job seekers. Congress and the president have declared drug trafficking illegal, and there can be little doubt that they are reflecting the strong conviction of the overwhelming majority of the American people.

"Federal employees should shun the use of illegal drugs and set an example of intolerance of those who do use or traffick in them. Brave federal officers risk their lives daily trying to stop the criminals and terrorists who run this trade. *The user is a part of the trafficking.* The American people have a right to hold federal employees to the highest standards of conduct, and to fire

those who contribute to this criminal threat to our national security.

"Accordingly, where there is an objective reason to believe a federal employee is using illegal drugs, the American public has a right to ask him to undergo a test. If illegal drug use is detected, if the test is reliable and is confirmed by other evidence, including additional testing, and if the drug use persists on retesting during a probationary period, the employee should be fired

"Certain herbal teas available legally over the counter in the last two or three years will yield positive tests for cocaine use because they contain coca. Some policemen exposed to PCP in drug raids have shown traces in their urine as much as three years later. Just as a blood or urine test is only one measure to be considered in a decision for surgery, to be complemented by other medical diagnostic expertise, including interviews, a drug test should be only part of an employer's decision-making process in a balanced and professional drug prevention program. We must guard against a panic reaction in which 'test abuse' becomes a new and pernicious part of our national drug problem.

"Obviously, in those occupations and functions involving public safety, employers should be more alert, and more strict in setting their standard of probable cause . . . Yet simple considerations of productivity and the right of every worker to a drug-free environment seem to justify testing and other investigation on the slightest objective indication of drug use. Certainly in the more critical jobs involving public safety, and possibly in other situations, random or blanket testing may be justifiable."

Decriminalizing Marijuana Would Reverse Hard-Won Progress

To the Editor:

We strongly disagree with "Testing for Drugs; Tested by Drugs" (editorial, March 6), in which you suggest that legalizing or at least decriminalizing marijuana would better direct resources to dealing with heroin and cocaine. Such proposals are offered whenever society becomes frustrated at the inability of law enforcement to solve the drug problem. We agree that controlling demand is a key element in the battle against drugs. But there are compelling reasons why decriminalization is a serious mistake and does not serve that goal.

• The country's first experience with marijuana decriminalization in the late 1970's coincided with the appearance and rise of teen-age marijuana use. Use peaked under decriminalization and decreased when states stopped passing decriminalization laws, and an activist antidrug movement grew across the country. Daily marijuana use by high-school seniors dropped from 11 percent to 5 percent from 1978 to 1984. The state that has gone farthest in decriminalizing growth and possession of marijuana, Alaska, has by far the highest levels of teen-age marijuana and cocaine use.

• Marijuana use is a serious health and social threat, particularly to teen-agers. Among the known or suspected chronic effects are short-term memory impairment and slowness of learning; impaired lung function similar to that found in cigarette smokers; decreased sperm count and sperm motility; interference with ovulation and prenatal development;

impaired immune response; possible adverse effects on heart function, and byproducts of marijuana remaining in body fat for several weeks, with unknown consequences.

• Marijuana is often the gateway drug for other illicit drug use, specifically cocaine and heroin. For example, studies show that among those who reported using marijuana only 3 to 10 times, more than 20 percent have gone on to try cocaine; and for those who reported using marijuana more than 100 times, almost three-quarters (73.4 percent) have tried cocaine. Our national prevention efforts, focused on marijuana use, also decrease the use of other drugs.

• There is a powerful relationship between legal sanction and levels of drug use. Tobacco and alcohol, which are responsible for over 400,000 premature deaths each year, wreak their disproportionate toll because

they are used by millions more Americans than any of the illicit drugs.

Over the last 10 years we have seen changes in the social acceptability of tobacco use, drinking and driving, and, more recently, marijuana use. These behaviors are no longer considered glamorous or accepted. These changes in society have been strengthened through legislation and increased law enforcement. We must not reverse our hard-won progress by decriminalizing marijuana. We must instead promote drug-free behavior by encouraging young people to resist the pressure to use drugs, encourage drug users to seek treatment and promote society's continued disapprobation of drug-taking of all kinds.

DONALD IAN MACDONALD, M.D.
Acting Assistant Secretary for Health
and Human Services
Washington, April 3, 1986



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NEW YORK TIMES
April 13, 1986

JOHN HUGHES

Drugs and the individual

LEN Bias, the basketball player who could jump through the roof, had everything going for him.

He was in perfect health. He was an outstanding athlete. He was about to be received into the magical circle of the Boston Celtics.

Though fame and money could not ensure happiness, both lay within his grasp. A lifetime of satisfaction and fulfillment seemed ahead.

At 22, he cast all this away in a few seconds of stupidity designed to produce a few minutes of unnatural stimulation induced by cocaine.

Across the Atlantic, Olivia Channon, also 22, was talented and pretty, the daughter of a millionaire and British Cabinet minister.

She had been to prestigious Oxford University and it was in a room there, after celebrating the end of final examinations, that she was found dead after a binge on drugs and alcohol. Though apparently not a regular heroin user, she had the drug in her bloodstream.

The waste of any life and talent is tragic. The loss through drugs of young men and women on the brink of achievement is doubly so.

Why do they do it?

What can the rest of us do to help?

We can, of course, do more to mobilize against the big-time drug traffickers. There are thought to be some 6 million regular cocaine users in the United States. The main cocaine-producing countries are Bolivia and Colombia. The US could show those two countries that it really means business when it comes to stopping the export of cocaine.

The military could be used to supplement the thinly stretched resources of the Coast Guard and drug enforcement agencies. The Pentagon is not happy

about this prospect; it believes its weapons should be kept sharply honed for war. Some would argue, however, that drugs pose as great a threat to national security as alien ideology and hostile rocketry.

Some have suggested tougher handling of convicted drug dealers. Columnist James J. Kilpatrick is quoted: "Capital punishment may not be much of a deterrent against murder, but the sight of a few corpses swinging from a scaffold might work with drug dealers."

More manpower and resources, improved techniques for interdiction of drug shipments, perhaps more draconian punishment — all this might help cut down the flow of imported drugs.

But the problem will not, I think, be solved until individuals' appetite for drugs fades away. Some 15 years ago, I spent five months investigating the illegal narcotics traffic around the world. Since then, law enforcement agencies have improved. Old traffic patterns have been closed off, but new ones have opened up. Some of the old drugs are no longer so much in use, but different ones have supplanted them.

Fifteen years later, it still all comes back to the individual. I remember the musings of a United Nations official in Geneva: "Programs to cut back drugs are important . . . but this is basically cops-and-robbers stuff."

"It all ends up with the user, the addict. The solution to his problem must be a metaphysical one. He has to work out the riddle: What is man? And can he find himself through drugs?"

At Len Bias's funeral, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said: "On a day the children mourn, I hope they learn."

The lesson is that drugs turned even a winner like Len Bias into a loser.

6/23/86

Chr. Sci. Mon.

Acting on drugs: enforcement

THROUGHOUT the United States the scene is being relentlessly played out these days: Drug traffickers are offering a veritable supermarket of illicit products to their customers, ranging from "crack" (smokable cocaine), to sinsemilla (derived from marijuana), to black tar heroin, the most dangerous product of all. Older forms of illegal drugs are widely available. At the same time, other dealers are selling so-called "designer drugs" made in clandestine laboratories; these drugs are modified versions of legally controlled drugs.

The recognition is growing that the nation's drug challenge — although not new — may be spiraling out of control as illegal drug products become cheaper and more readily available. Millions of Americans have experimented with cocaine.

Today's drug user is as likely to be found in a middle-class or upper-income suburb as in an inner-city ghetto. Part of the new challenge is technological: Refinements in drug processing, as well as a decentralization in criminal networks, have enabled dealers to sell products such as crack for as little as \$5 to \$10 a fix. Operating out of so-called safe houses, crack processing "kitchens" can be set up in almost any sheltered location and moved quickly to avoid the police.

Clearly, meeting the nation's drug challenge involves forging a broad range of responses, from antidrug education programs in schools, community groups, and churches to more-comprehensive law enforcement techniques.

In subsequent editorials we will deal with such issues as society's role in curbing drug abuse, as well as the part family and friends can play in helping people struggling with drug dependency. On the broader enforcement front, however, a number of steps are in order:

THE DRUG CHALLENGE

- Congress and the White House should provide better funding for federal agencies dealing with drugs or drug-linked criminal networks — the US Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Given the magnitude of the challenge, this is not the moment to scrimp on antidrug budgets.

- The US-Mexico border has become the main entry point for many of the illegal drugs smuggled into the US. But merely adding additional police or using questionable methods of apprehension —

including use of the Pentagon — will not alone suffice.

Washington needs to enact an immigration-reform law that makes it difficult for aliens to obtain jobs in the US. If the numbers of illegal aliens could be reduced (with 1.8 million illegals now estimated to be apprehended this year alone), border guards would have more to expend on curbing drug smuggling.

- Local law enforcement agencies need to develop specialized antidrug teams, as New York is now doing in seeking to identify and apprehend crack dealers.

- Congress should seriously consider enacting legislation, such as that just proposed in the Senate, that would provide tough new penalties for the sale and use of crack. At the least, employing minors in sales of crack should be sharply penalized.

- Rivalries and jurisdictional disputes among law enforcement agencies need to be curbed. Comprehensive federal, state, and local antidrug teams should be established, just as such teams have been successfully deployed against organized-crime groups in the US. There should be a nationwide plan of assistance between state and local law enforcement agencies dealing with lethal drugs, such as crack.

First in a five-part series

Chr. Sci. Mon.

Governments and drug wars

GOVERNMENTS, particularly Washington, must be far more inventive than they have been in working with other governments to curtail the production of illegal drugs.

Saying this is not to imply that the drug problem is primarily a "foreign" problem. Drug production within the United States is also substantial. The US marijuana crop, for example, grown in hidden, out-of-the way rural areas, within inaccessible public park lands or national forests, and on private farms, is estimated at two to three times the size of Mexico's crop!

Still, the evidence is indisputable that the United States, because of its large population, its wealth, and its extensive networks of underground criminal subcultures, remains the main "target" for overseas drug producers and dealers. Drug products grown abroad, in such places as Colombia, Bolivia, Mexico, or the Caribbean, are more often than not specifically aimed at the large North American market. One way to mitigate the worldwide drug challenge is to destroy those crops abroad — before they are processed and shipped along to consumers in the US or elsewhere.

There have been some successful overseas campaigns against drug growers: Turkish authorities, for example, have sought out and destroyed large amounts of drug crops. In Colombia, where drug dealers have been brutally aggressive in singling out police and government officials for retaliatory raids, some government officials have destroyed illicit crops. Some overseas raids have been well publicized, such as operation "Blue Lightning" in March 1985, a joint US-Bahamian effort in which agents blockaded 30 islands and seized 6,500 pounds of cocaine, 17 tons of cannabis, and a number of boats and planes.

Still, more, far more, needs to be done.

The Reagan administration, for its part, is now seeking to hit drug smuggling along the US-Mexican border. Mexico is considered the main source of imported heroin, marijuana, and illegal amphetamines coming into the US.

Task forces, involving agents from at least five federal antidrug departments, are being sent into border regions.

The problem for the US and foreign governments is that drug crops abroad are often a main source of income for impoverished agricultural communities. Local politicians, many of them taking bribes, protect those farming communities. And there are often political or

religious inhibitions against allowing in American or other antidrug policing officials.

What, then, is to be done?

● The US must be no-nonsense about linking foreign assistance to official anti-drug-farming campaigns abroad. At the same time, the US needs to provide practical assistance to other nations that are attempting to shift farmers away from drugs into more-wholesome crops.

● The US should avoid collaborating with government officials, such as in Panama, who are known to be linked to the drug trade.

● The US must continue to prod other nations to open up private bank accounts to court- or government-monitored scrutiny when evidence of drug-related criminal activities is established. Moreover, Washington must step up its campaign against money laundering, which is usually drug linked.

● The US should provide particular assistance to Mexico, which is seeking to curtail drug production and trafficking. At the same time, the US should firmly hold that drug-related corruption in Mexico is as much a threat to the long-range political stability of that nation as to the safety of US cities where Mexican drugs are being distributed.

Second in a series

THE DRUG CHALLENGE

Ch. Sci. Mon.

Drugs: a military matter?

THE Reagan administration's moves to include the military in the enforcement of drug laws are an understandable response to what seems an overwhelming problem.

But having the military help play policeman could open the door to abuses; those schooled for combat are not exactly trained to concern themselves with civil liberties.

It would be easier to argue against this expanded military role in drug-law enforcement, however, if there were more-obvious alternatives.

The prohibition against military involvement in civilian law enforcement, the so-called posse comitatus law, goes back to the post-Civil War period, when the soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic often made

arrests of civilians. Such police powers as exercised by the military were seen to be the source of considerable abuses, and over the years the posse comitatus law has come to be regarded by civil libertarians almost as part of the Bill of Rights.

Now times have changed; there have been two revisions of the law already during the Reagan years, allowing the military to provide logistical and other support to civilian police agencies. Most recently, Vice-President George Bush has revealed that President Reagan has identified drug trafficking as a national-security issue and has authorized an even higher level of support for drug agents from the military than up to now.

The new executive order basically means that the armed services will be able to undertake drug enforcement missions for their own sake, without having to work them into existing military missions.

It is not quite clear what effect this will

have, though. Navy ships are already carrying Coast Guard sailors to make arrests, should a suspected drug-running ship be spotted in US waters. And Air Force Reserve units, whose exercises consist of reconnaissance and patrol flights, have been making those flights over the Caribbean while in contact with the Coast Guard, instead of just flying over, say, northern Georgia.

In other words, the armed forces' role in drug-law enforcement has hitherto been mainly a matter of doing what they would do anyway, with some modifications to support civilian authorities.

When a civilian agency has borrowed a helicopter or other equipment for a mission that couldn't simply be fitted into a scheduled military exercise, the service involved would

send the civilian agency a bill for fuel and other obvious costs. Under the new order, that will presumably change.

All in all, the US military received 10,000 requests for help from civilian drug agencies in 1984, and it met all but 29 of them.

Historically, however, the armed services have not been eager to take on this kind of role. There seems no interest in having military people do the actual snapping on of handcuffs — the most sensitive aspect of posse comitatus. There is also within the United States a strong tradition of having the military be clearly subordinate to civilian authorities, and there has been no discussion of having the military enforce drug laws in the interior of the country.

All that said, and granting the severity of the drug traffic problem, we must still urge caution as the armed services move into new responsibilities for the enforcement of drug laws.

Third in a series

THE DRUG CHALLENGE

Chr. Sci. Mon.

Drug war: enlisting society

It is sometimes easy to forget, as we read of one President after another declaring "war on drugs," that there would be no drugs to declare war on, no supply to be cut off, if there were no demand for drugs in the first place.

However relentless traffickers may be, however vicious their tactics, they would be powerless in a land where each person had simply decided to say "no" to this ultimate form of materialism.

Each individual's decision to live drug-free is a stone in a wall of fortification that would protect society beyond the US Drug Enforcement Administration's wildest dreams. For some individuals, that decision must be made again and again — and will not be made easily. No wonder the White House wants to call in the Pentagon to help. It is easier to conquer territory than human hearts.

We do not want to make light of the private miseries that push people into drug use. Nor do we want to underestimate the power of peer pressure and groupthink, especially for experimenting youngsters and those in desperate circumstances.

But surely, there are enough people whose own lives are sufficiently under control that they can throw lifelines to their brothers and sisters in need of help.

It often happens that people find themselves in a social group that condones drug use, and fall into the habit themselves, or start using drugs and then begin to cut out of their lives those who would disapprove of this. We need to make use of positive peer pressure, to make sure that young people, particularly, have more wholesome friends and

activities. The hubris of those who would claim they can "control" their use of dangerous substances deserves rebuke.

Society does not have to be overwhelmed by a drug crisis or be unduly alarmed at the failures of humankind. Specific problems — such as the appearance of new drugs like "crack" — need specific responses, as they are getting. But beyond that, whether the use of this or that drug is up x percent or down y percent is less important than a general awareness that there is a major problem.

And most broadly speaking, the public response to that problem must be to build

a national consensus against drugs, a recognition that drugs are a problem, and not a solution, and that society and individuals must be drug-free.

It will not be easy. With millions of prescriptions written every year in the United States, the line between medication and recreation is not always clear. People have got used to expecting fast, fast, fast relief from whatever ails them.

And despite crackdowns on drunken driving, alcohol remains a socially acceptable — and legal — mood-altering drug. Moreover, there remains a morbid fascination with drugs and with the celebrities who use them and are destroyed by them. This was the case so tragically with University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias: Just drafted to play with the Boston Celtics, Bias died last week after an experiment with cocaine.

The war against drugs is too important to be left to the generals. Everyone must enlist.

Fourth in a series

THE DRUG
CHALLENGE

Chr. Sci. Mon.

Countering illegal drugs — with moral, spiritual growth

AS is the case with all civic issues, the deepening concern over the flow of illegal drugs across borders and into neighborhoods, schools, offices, and homes should have at least one benefit: It should compel us to consider "What, really, is the nature of the drug challenge?" and "What is our view of man and society?"

The two questions are related. To focus on the drug phenomenon alone would be to miss the context of its cause and the prospect of its remedy. A society represented more exclusively by positive values would leave fewer spaces for a drug culture to take root and grow.

It is helpful to perceive the enormous waste of human lives in the drug trade. After all, what are billions of dollars worth when the traffic is essentially in human illusion and misery?

More effective enforcement of drug laws, and the eradication of the drug trade, are also essential.

But the disappointments thus far of exhortation against drugs and of enforcement efforts suggest that denunciation and enforcement alone may be just the proverbial sweeping of the room clean for other demons to enter.

If our view of the human experience is of a lawless void of payoffs, crime, and even official corruption, we should probably be frightened at the evidence of the drug challenge. But mankind has faced other social plagues — the violence and ignorance of the dark ages, religious persecutions, "holy" wars undertaken for the basest of motives, genocides. This plague is no worse.

It can be said that the drug trade and drug culture are but a metaphor for society's impoverished spiritual development.

The drug business thrives as an aggressive dream, widely accepted, of satisfaction in artificially induced states of consciousness. It forms its own closed circuit of illusion and victim.

Part of the mesmeric grip of drug use is the belief that it leaves a permanent stigma on its victim. This should be countered by the understanding that

there can be "an utter end" to drug attraction for individuals, and that society can compassionately welcome back its victims.

The closed circuit of the drug culture can be stopped only by society's awakening out of the materialistic, self-seeking values that perpetuate it. In its place should be encouraged the development of a more pure, selfless, generous, intelligent, and noble race of people.

These qualities should be expressed in the individual consciousness and deeds of each of us. Often, the simple love of a parent or friend can fill the void that some attempt to fill with drugs. Youth need to be encouraged to be independent thinkers, alert to resist an adverse mental climate.

We would not be true to our convictions if we did not emphasize that the drug problem is essentially a moral and

spiritual issue.

Matters of public policy do not really differ from matters of individual conscience and decision. Because an issue is societywide, it is often assumed that it has a life of its own, untethered in individual attitudes and practices, and can strike individuals at whim.

The drug issue is at base theological. The private and social hell of drug use describes an ignorance of God's heavenly presence at hand.

A more enlightened perception of what mankind's experience is all about — reflecting what is wholly good and real — should inform public policy. It should stir activity to promote jobs, strengthen the family, and foster wholesome aspirations and entertainment.

"Every day makes its demands upon us for higher proofs rather than professions of Christian power," writes Mary Baker Eddy, the Founder of this newspaper, in "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures."

Thus enlisted in spiritual development and service, each of us can help eliminate the mental space in which the drug culture has thrived.

Last in a series

THE DRUG CHALLENGE

Newspaper Articles and Recent Editorials

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Your Friend, The Grim Reaper	Editorial	The Detroit News July 2, 1986
Drugs and the Individual	John Hughes	The Christian Science Monitor June 28, 1986
Drug Consumers, Not Dealers are the Problem	James J. Kilpatrick	Universal Press Syndicate July 1, 1986
The Message: We're Fed Up, Tired of Drugs	Sam Meddis	USA Today March 7, 1986

Nancy Reagan

The Need for Intolerance

Like everyone else, I, too, felt the loss of Len Bias. Here was a young man, full of talent and potential, from a good, loving family, and suddenly he's gone because of drugs. What he meant to so many people is obvious by the stunned sorrow that has poured forth.

While those wounds were still raw, we learned of the death of Don Rogers, another gifted athlete sacrificed to cocaine. He was to be married the next day. I cannot imagine the inconsolable grief his bride-to-be must be enduring.

As painful as these two cruel shocks have been to us, I've been receiving similar stories of grief for many years now. Most people have no idea of the incredible pain and price drugs are exacting on our country.

I have been pursuing this goal for the last five years and believe that progress has been made. In the beginning, I felt the main task was to raise the level of awareness of the problem and make people more knowledgeable. I think that's been accomplished. Most Americans today do recognize the problem. We've made great progress educating the nation to the extent and nature of drug abuse. The opinion surveys prove it. There's also been tremendous encouraging growth in the number of parents' groups and service clubs working to increase drug awareness. Kids themselves have been getting involved in Just Say No clubs.

The problem is this—most people don't feel that combating drugs has anything to do with them. It's for others to do—those who work in treatment centers or who have children on drugs or who live where drugs are openly traded on the street.

I believe it's time to let people know that they have a personal, moral responsibility to fight drug abuse. Each of us has an obligation to take an individual stand against drugs. Each of us has a responsibility to be intolerant of drug use anywhere, anytime, by anybody.

As I recently told the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, every one of us has an obligation to force the drug issue to the point it may make others uncomfortable and ourselves unpopular.

Not long ago, I was interviewed by a magazine reporter who told me of a dinner she'd attended where cocaine was passed around. She felt uneasy, but she didn't do anything. Well, she should have. She should

"You cannot separate so-called polite drug use at a chic party from drug use in a back alley."

have gotten up from the table, told the people what she thought, and left.

I know it takes courage to speak up, but there comes a point when you have to put your conscience and your principles on the line. By accepting drug use, you are accepting a practice that is destroying life—lives like that of Len Bias and of countless kids next door.

You cannot separate so-called polite drug use at a chic party from drug use in a back alley. They are morally equal. You cannot separate drug use that "doesn't hurt anybody" from drug use that kills. They are ethically identical—the only difference is time and luck.

Those who don't take an active, hostile position against drugs are giving their tacit approval. People have turned their backs long enough. For too long our nation denied a problem even existed. And just the other day, I heard the chancellor of a major university deny that students could get any kind of drug they wanted on campus. The man was incredibly naive.

Up until a few years ago there was

almost a stigma in trying to speak out against drugs. It was unfashionable. It was illiberal and narrow-minded in our live-and-let-live society. Movies and television portrayed drugs as glamorous and cool. We heard about the "recreational" use of drugs as if drugs were as harmless as Trivial Pursuit. Even law enforcement was weakened by the moral confusion surrounding drug abuse. It was as if all the people who sought to fight drugs had to justify their actions.

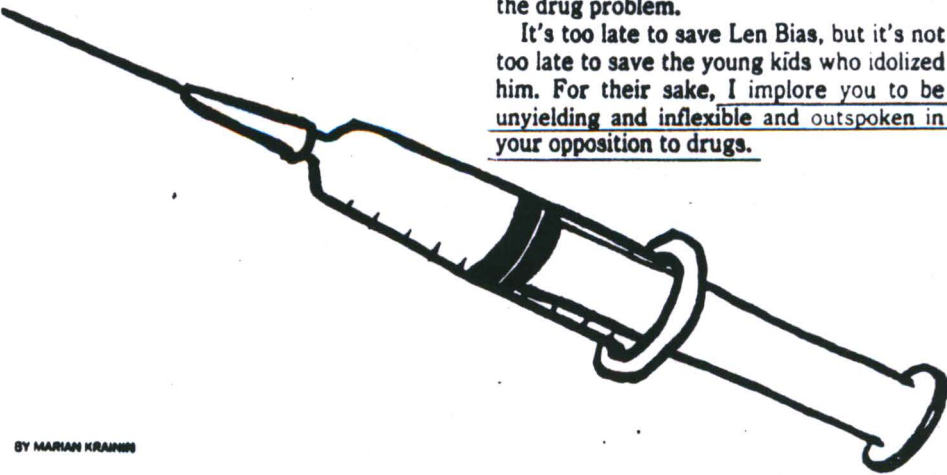
Well, today those of us fighting against drugs don't have to justify our actions. Those who would do nothing or ignore drug use must justify theirs.

And I'm not just talking about individuals here. Schools owe our children a drug-free environment in which to grow and learn. There are schools that haven't made this commitment, because they believe that drug abuse is society's problem. Yet, schools can be made clean with a no-nonsense approach that simply says drugs will not be tolerated.

Corporations have to take a greater responsibility too. Workers who are on drugs are a danger to fellow employees and to the public. Too many companies don't know how to deal with drug abuse, so, like certain parents, they pretend it's not a problem. Corporations need to set up their own tough, no-drug policies.

We must create an atmosphere of intolerance for drug use in this country. We must educate our children to the dangers of drugs. We must reach those addicts who need help so that they can save themselves. We must stop the trafficking of drugs. And we must take individual responsibility for the drug problem.

It's too late to save Len Bias, but it's not too late to save the young kids who idolized him. For their sake, I implore you to be unyielding and inflexible and outspoken in your opposition to drugs.



BY MARIAN KRANIN

William Raspberry

Bennett's Drug Counsel

Let me tell you up front that I have no interest in "Completing the Reagan Revolution," the subject of William J. Bennett's lecture at the Heritage Foundation last week.

The Reagan Revolution is, from where I sit, a counterrevolution, calculated to undo a lot of good bought with the blood of civil rights martyrs.

But Reagan's secretary of education said something in that lecture that is still reverberating in my head:

"Every college president should write his students this summer and tell them this: 'Welcome back for your studies in September; but no drugs on campus. None. Period. This policy will be enforced—by deans and administrators and advisers and faculty—strictly but fairly.'"

The letter Bennett talked about won't be written, of course. But isn't it interesting to wonder why?

It cannot be because college presidents prefer not to have drug-free campuses. It isn't because drug abuse is a conservative vs. liberal political issue. Bennett's liberal critics will no doubt see his rhetorical recommendation as "too simplistic," which it may well be. But few parents, however liberal their views, could suppress a monumental sigh of relief upon learning that their children's campuses were off-limits to drugs, drug users and drug pushers.

The letter won't be written because too many of us, emphatically including worried parents, are too namby-pamby to insist that it be written—too afraid that to do so would be a declaration of war, not against drugs, but against our children's generation. And absent the stiffening influence of parental demand, few college presidents will have the backbone to do what Bennett proposes.

"Our students already know about our antidrug policy," you can almost hear these administrators saying. "What purpose would be served by such gratuitous dramatics? All it could accomplish would be to trigger needless student-administration confrontation and turn our educators into agents of the police."

But Bennett believes that any such response would miss the point. To take a step as straightforward and clearheaded as he proposed would, he said, "require a kind of reinvigoration of our institutions, a resumption of their basic values," and he doesn't think we're quite ready for that.

This, not just the growing problem of youthful drug abuse, was the central point of his remarks.

"Far too many decent Americans remain, in effect, on the moral defensive before their own social and cultural institutions," he said. "Can Americans be confident that our children

are likely to inherit the habits and values our parents honor? Are we confident they will learn enough about our history and our heritage? Are we confident they will be raised in an environment that properly nurtures their moral and intellectual qualities? Can we be confident in the cultural signals our children receive from our educational institutions, from the media, from the world of the arts, even from our churches?"

The questions answer themselves. We try our best, as individuals and families, to see to the moral and ethical development of our children, to strengthen them against the pressures of peers and what we call the "real world."

But we watch, as though helpless, as "our social and cultural institutions drift away from their moorings; we [have] ceased being clear about the standards we hold forth and the principles by which we judge, or, if we [are] clear in our own minds, we somehow have abdicated the area of public discussion to the forces of moral and intellectual relativism."

I'm not sure how much any of this has to do with conservatism or the "Reagan Revolution." The liberal Jesse Jackson has said much the same thing, with far greater consistency and to resounding applause.

Both Bennett and Jackson understand the difficulty of perpetuating the values we personally care about without the support of our institutions: schools, churches, the media and the rest.

If their message sounds "simplistic," perhaps it is because it is so uncomplicatedly, unarguably correct.

CAL THOMAS

Culprits in Bias' death

WASHINGTON - There is a bumper sticker that says, "All I want is a little more than I have now." It is a motto for our times.

Last week, Len Bias, 22-year-old University of Maryland basketball star, top pick of the world champion Boston Celtics, future millionaire, driver of a brand-new sports car, died. It appears that Bias wanted a little more than he had and that cocaine, the No. 1 pick of more and more young people as their favorite recreational drug, is what did him in.

But cocaine alone didn't kill Len Bias. It had several accomplices. They are the overly tolerant and permissive attitudes, the reluctance to say no, the refusal to teach absolutes in our public schools, the fear of lawsuits by individuals and groups that spend more time searching for the presence of God in the classroom than drugs in the hallway - these are what really killed Len Bias.

Oh yes, Bias had had a spiritual conversion, but his relationship with God was new and untempered. When the pressure of his new-found fame got to be too much, Bias apparently surrendered. According to those who knew him well, it may have been his first embrace of cocaine. But once was quite enough.

Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.) says: "The media cannot escape a huge portion of responsibility for the

drug epidemic. I am not suggesting that we tamper with the First Amendment, but I am suggesting that we must deal with the permissive attitudes toward drugs shown on TV which leads kids to experiment."

Armstrong says the media rarely portray the consequences of drug use as a devastating habit. He sees hope in the public response to pornography and to the recent publicity over the content of some rock lyrics. He believes that if a "critical mass" of the public demands change in the way television and movies portray drug use, then the industry will be forced to respond by inserting strong anti-drug messages in scripts.

Such an approach avoids the drawbacks of challenges to First Amendment rights. But let us not forget that in our headlong pursuit toward expanding everyone's rights, there has been at least one casualty: our responsibilities.

The late Bishop Fulton J. Sheen once observed, "There is no freedom given without an accompanying responsibility."

Len Bias exercised a kind of freedom.

There apparently was not enough emphasis on the accompanying responsibility.

Now he is dead and men cry and hang their heads.

They should do more than hang



LEN BIAS

Cocaine not only cause of death

their heads. They should resolve that Len Bias' death shall not have been in vain. They should resolve with every fiber of their being to arrest Len Bias' real killers.

Those who are poisoning our culture and contributing to the death of our children should be flushed out from their hiding place behind the First Amendment, not by government vigilantes, but by a posse of the people who have had enough with drugs and booze and all of the other things that mar the lives and health of the next generation. These profiteers, from "Cheech and Chong" to the more "respectable" producers and writers, should then either be driven toward responsibility or into another line of work.

Cal Thomas is a syndicated columnist.

The Los Angeles Times Syndicate
June 28, 1986

The drug users are just plain stupid

By Claude Lewis
Inquirer Editorial Board

Let's put aside one thing at the outset. That Len Bias and Don Rogers, who died from a mix of stupidity and cocaine, were black is not relevant except, perhaps, to sociologists. Both of these guys, popular as they were, were dopes. They succumbed to playground pressure. It cost them lucrative careers and their lives.

I have a friend who is 18 and who has won a five-year football scholarship to a top school in Pennsylvania. He is said to have great gifts as a football player. But if he uses dope, it will clearly be his fault. Nobody else can be blamed, unless somebody ties him down and forces him to ingest heroin or coke. Recently, he mentioned the "pressure" he's already had to use "something."

On a recent visit to a college campus, he succumbed to "a couple of beers." But beer and drugs, so far as I know, are not a part of his lifestyle. It is time — no, well past time — to place the biggest chunk of responsibility on the "kids" themselves. They must make their decisions.

It's not as if nobody has ever heard that cocaine kills. That was known before the deaths of Bias and Rogers. It has been documented on a thousand rooftops and in hundreds of filthy hallways. There is a cocaine crisis. People die from it every day.

Even though most of those who perish by poisoning their systems with illicit drugs are relatively unknown, there is an abundance of evidence suggesting that using dope is stupid. Snorting or smoking cocaine involves a risk to life, no matter how "strong" an individual is. Coke is stronger than everybody.

Len Bias was not a "victim," unless he was a victim of his own weakness.

And I have heard enough about peer pressure. The smart ones say no, the dumb ones say: "OK, I'll do it this once. I'm not chicken." If that's all the strength of character a kid has by age 18, forget his talent. Maybe he'd do better working in a factory rather than on a football field. If an athlete thinks no more of himself, his family, his future and his team than to use coke, he deserves whatever he gets. Sometimes that's death.

The world went crazy when hockey's Pelle Lindbergh after a night of drinking, died while flying his Porsche instead of driving it. He made a decision and paid the price.

We coddle athletes in America, insulating them from reality, making it easy for them to believe that because they can hit a baseball, tackle a runner, stop a hockey puck or punch another guy senseless in the ring, they have achieved immortality.

In that sense, we are partners in their destruction. Anybody who believes in his immortality, is already



on a collision course. Every professional has a responsibility to have at least a modicum of brains.

Some will argue that people use coke because they are unhappy or because they live with "pressure." Well, a lot of people are unhappy and millions live daily with pressure. Some have no money, no friends, no family, no skills, no hope and no future. But we don't all take dope.

The way to clean up sports is to clean out the druggies. If every professional sports contract, beginning Jan. 1, 1988, contained a clause that says if illicit drugs are found in a player's system, or locker he, or she, is banned from all professional sports for life, attitudes would change quickly.

We have banned players for betting on games and for fixing them. Let's ban them for illegal drug use. It's time for toughness among those privileged to participate in amateur and professional sports. We have to begin somewhere. If such a ban works in sports, it could be expanded to cover doctors, lawyers, writers, civil servants and others flirting with death. Drugs are ruining America and killing our kids.

We can go on blaming schools, coaches, parents, friends, associates and everybody else — everyone and everything except the individuals who choose to use drugs.

If drugs are more important than jobs and careers, let those who use them know they can't exist in two worlds. If they can't exist without drugs, let them devote their lives to that negative pastime. But why pay them for irresponsibility?

There is no quick cure for drugs. But there is a quick way to eliminate athletes who persist in using them. If necessary, license them and test them, and boot the guilty out. And let sports be only the beginning.

Illegal drugs are not fun. Let's not retire the uniform numbers of those who die from drugs, the way the University of Maryland did in Len Bias' "honor." Let us, when we have specific knowledge of abuse, retire players and coaches who winked at their abuse.

It is possible to get rid of drugs — in and out of sports — if somebody will take charge. Then, when the cry of "Play ball!" goes out, it will mean what it used to mean, instead of the tragic games now being played.

Richard Cohen

Blame Len Bias Too

In "Porgy and Bess," the oily and evil Sportin' Life gives the lovely and innocent Bess her first taste of cocaine and lures her from Catfish Row in Charleston to Harlem in New York. Porgy, the cripple, cannot bear that his Bess is gone. Determined to get her back, he gets into his goat cart and is slowly pulled along the stage. "Which way New York?" he asks, and with that breaks the heart of anyone who has ever seen the show.

The Faustian theme of the enticement of beauty or talent by evil is as old as theater itself. In the movies of the 1930s and '40s, the locale shifted to the prizefighting ring, where the mob-affiliated blonde lured some naive palooka from the straight and narrow. In those movies, the "dope" was either sex or social standing, but either way, our hero was hooked. Not just cocaine is addictive.

But it was cocaine that killed Len Bias, the all-America basketball player from the University of Maryland. His death was tragic, shocking. He had been drafted by the Boston Celtics; he had signed a contract to endorse Reebok shoes. In a short time, he would have been a millionaire—a golden boy as golden as any portrayed in the movies. Like most of the old flicks, this real-life one ended with tears.

Almost immediately, the media assembled a posse to catch the culprit, pointing fingers everywhere but at Bias himself. It was the University of Maryland, some said. The school has failed to inculcate in Bias the proper values. Others said the culprit was the commercialization of college athletics—the emphasis on winning at all costs. Bias was a poor student, yet Maryland allowed him to play. At some schools, Vince Lombardi's mindless dictum that winning is the only thing should rightly be etched in Latin over the field house.

Some blamed an educational system that exploits all athletes, particularly black ones. Pampered and patronized from high school on, these athletes are educated to play ball and, often, nothing else. Even the celebrated return to minimum academic standards for athletic eligibility (usually a C average) is an example of inverted values. Regardless of why adults favor the standards, kids can conclude that athletics remain the ultimate goal. A minimal amount of studying, like practice itself, is something you have to do to get on the court.

And, of course, an abstraction called "society" also comes in for blame when such an athlete as Bias dies. Drugs infest some black communities. They have become a plague, a contemporary version of some medieval scourge. Drugs claim their victims, debilitate whole communities, fertilize criminality and, with the huge profits they generate, produce

role models—the pushers—whose effect is always pernicious, often fatal.

Each of these culprits is guilty as charged. Yet there is something both insulting and patronizing to Len Bias in fingering everyone and everything but him. It was Bias, after all, who took the drugs. It was Bias who knew he was breaking the law, that cocaine is addictive, sometimes fatal. That Bias must have thought his "crime" inconsequential and the chances of death ridiculously low is, alas, irrelevant. He died.

If Len Bias did not turn out to be a role model for others in life, then he can be that in death. With no disrespect, it ought to be said that he bears a responsibility for his own fate. To say otherwise is to give the impression that he and other athletes—especially black ones—are too dumb to know what they are doing, that society has to construct a cocoon for them—that they are exceptions to the rule that we are all accountable for what we do. When it comes to drugs, individual accountability may be our most potent weapon.

Certainly, drugs ought to be eliminated (don't hold your breath) and an amateur athletic system polluted by greed and alumni yahooism should be reformed. But essentially, there is nothing new about the Len Bias story. Cocaine is the reason Bess went off with Sportin' Life, and as the movies have shown us, there have always been enticements for athletes no matter what their race—money, blondes, entree into society.

Len Bias is dead because Len Bias took drugs. Blame everybody and everything, if you will, but don't fail to blame him too. The lives of countless kids depend on it.

The Washington Post Writers Group

June 29, 1986

Customer makes a drug deal

WASHINGTON: It is natural to try to salvage something of value from our tragedies: some renewal of faith, some valid principle, some lesson.

So what is there to be salvaged from the tragedy of Len Bias, born-again Christian, gifted athlete, prospective millionaire, dead at age 22 because he, perhaps for the first time, used cocaine?

Probably not much.

Many of Bias' young admirers, including his own younger brother, may find in the shock of his death the strength to say a permanent "no" to illicit drugs. A few once-in-a-while users of cocaine, heroin, PCP or other substances may be jolted into saying: No more. There may even be one or two regular abusers of narcotics who will think about Len Bias and quit.

I'm cynical enough to doubt it. What seems more likely is that a lot of people will straighten up for a time, just as we all drive more carefully for an hour or so after we've seen a bad wreck, and then go back to their old patterns. In other words, even the most obvious potential lesson from the tragedy — that cocaine can kill — is likely to be only fleetingly learned.

The truth is, as those most susceptible to the blandishments of chemically induced euphoria know full well, that coke rarely kills



William Raspberry

quickly. It does its dirty work far more insidiously than that, by wrecking priorities and budgets and careers.

So why are so many youngsters still tempted to experiment with drugs? It must be because they are aware of other athletes, famous and not so famous, who seem to be able to snort now and again without obvious harmful effect. Maybe they believe that, just as many people smoke cigarettes without getting lung cancer, or drink liquor without succumbing to alcoholism or cirrhosis, it is quite possible to use cocaine without having it become an obsession.

What will they salvage from Len Bias's death?

There will be a lot of talk, and perhaps a spate of legislation, aimed at getting tough on the drug trade. I'd like to see it wiped out too, but nothing I have seen convinces me that tougher laws and stricter enforcement will accomplish that goal.

We keep hoping that we can salvage something useful from the

drug-linked deaths of the famous — John Belushi, Bias, Jimi Hendrix, the Kennedy kid — and we never do. It's hard for me to see how we can.

They also urge us, however irrationally, to vengeance. Already there are hints that whoever supplied Bias and his friends with coke on that fatal night will, if he can be found, be charged with murder. Fine. But shouldn't we also face the painful truth that, no matter how venal the supplier might be, he probably didn't force drugs on anybody? There can be no drug suppliers, no lucrative drug industry, unless there are willing buyers and users of the stuff.

I don't know what makes a person want to experiment with dangerous drugs. But it does strike me that the link in the drug-abuse chain most deserving of our attention is not the South American peasant who grows the stuff, or the money-driven criminals, who peddle it or the law enforcers who can't seem to stop it, but the willing user who knowingly risks life, health and substance in order to have it.

William Raspberry is a nationally syndicated columnist for the Washington Post.

The Washington Post Writers
Group
July 5, 1986

Why are we tolerating drugs?

Have Americans become inured to drug abuse? I mean, dangerously so? Have drugs come to be regarded as a tragic fact of life in modern America, a pestilence that is too depressing to contemplate, "given" that we are powerless to stop it?

A short while ago, the Len Bias case forced the viciousness of drugs upon the national consciousness for a few days. Rightly so. The story was a tragedy. Then, as if to underscore the uselessness of Bias' death, young Don Rogers of the Cleveland Browns died the day before his wedding. Again, the cause was cardiac arrest. And, again, drugs were involved.

Bias was described in news accounts a young man with close family ties and deep religious convictions. Just 22, he was famous already by virtue of four years at the University of Maryland distinguished by what *Newsweek* called a "velvet jump shot."

Potential millionaire

His basketball greatness made him the second pick in the National Basketball Association draft. He had been selected by the Boston Celtics, the current world champions and the team he said he had dreamed of joining. He had signed an endorsement contract for a basketball-shoe company while in Boston after the draft. He would have been a millionaire. Instead, he died a potential millionaire.

So the velvet touch won't count anymore. There'll be no chance for championship rings, *Sports Illustrated* covers, all-pro adulation in America's premier basketball city. All the hard work and talent mean nothing.

On June 19, Len Bias became just a kid who died from drugs. Or better, Len Bias and Don Rogers were just a couple more kids who died from drugs. The shock of their deaths will wear off. But the statistics will keep growing.

We shouldn't be as callous as that. We shouldn't treat drugs the way we do so many other issues, paying attention each time the circumstances are shocking enough and then putting the problem away again.



Robert Clerc

Maybe we do that because the scope of the problem has been sneaking up on us. From marijuana and heroin, the dealers have moved through acid and pills to today's incredible assortment of natural and synthetic mind-benders, and always with the market in mind. If heroin is marketable only to street people, supply cocaine to get the in-crowd. If coke is too expensive for the mass market, supply the derivative "crack" at lower prices with increased addictive power. Even if you can't name it, they got it — or they'll get it.

We know drugs are killers. We know that many of those who survive suffer wasted lives as a consequence of drugs. We know that they are a primary cause of crimes like robbery and prostitution and worse.

We know, too, that the nation is being flooded with the stuff. Much of the importation is done for profit. But not all of it is solely for profit. I have sat with a career foreign-service officer and listened to him tell of organized efforts by unfriendly governments to "wage war" on the United States with drugs.

It is hard to conceive of a more blatant or hurtful form of terrorism against this nation and everything it stands for.

In the days immediately following the news of Len Bias' death, there was a great deal of commentary on the drug problem. Almost all of it was directed at the users. Some argued that the federal government must spend more on drug-rehabilitation programs. Some said we must take some of the "glamor" from drugs by rigorous testing programs for college and professional athletes, with lifetime bans for violators. Well and good. Both Bias and Rogers were young adults, who presumably decided themselves to

use drugs.

But what about their sources? Why don't we recognize drug trafficking for the crime that it is? Why don't we begin to treat trafficking as a composite offense, which includes child abuse, conspiracy, attempted murder and murder? And why don't we go after the animals who profit from the drug trade?

Start on the street corners with the dime-bag pushers and make them know that they are going away for life — no parole — if they are caught. Never mind that "he's only small potatoes." Scare him out of the business or put him away. But break up the supply line at the point of delivery.

Make trafficking a capital offense for the high-rollers and fancy dudes who are the major suppliers and wholesalers. That's right, a capital offense. Resolve never to forget the drug-abuse statistics and wholesale traffickers and manufacturers become mass murderers. Treat them as such.

Use the military to interdict drug shipments at our problem borders. When it is verifiable that any country is a recurring source, insist that that country stop the flow of drugs to the United States — or be regarded by us as a terrorist sponsor-state.

Too pervasive

The time has long passed when this country could dismiss drug abuse as a self-destructive psychological affliction that affects only a sorry few who, deprived of drugs, would find another way to kill themselves. It is too pervasive and finds too many victims who are too young, too innocent, or both, to have had a fighting chance.

Because of drugs, Len Bias will never be a millionaire. But chances are, the supplier of his cocaine is. What a miserable testament to justice and right.

Robert Clerc is a member of The Enquirer's editorial board.

GEORGIE ANNE GEYER

How society expresses itself

As two prominent young athletes have died these last few weeks, it is the language used to describe their young deaths that has struck me as saying a lot about America today.

"Cocaine killed him," the television commentators have repeated over and over. "He was killed by cocaine ... cocaine, the killer drug ..." So it seemed to go, in the current language of drugs and death.

Many years ago, when I was just learning Spanish, one of the first structural differences we learned about that beautiful language was the one between Spanish and English verb usage. In English, the person causes the action; in Spanish, in many cases, the thing causes its own action, so no one is responsible.

"The tree fell down; the glass smashed itself; things happened to him."

In what is probably a smug Anglo-Saxon analysis, we used to say that this showed a linguistic and national fatalism, a lack of responsibility for one's actions, and a tendency to blame external factors for causal relationships.

That is why the language of the past weeks hit me with special force. I would have put it differently, saying, for example, "An athlete, being of sane mind and blessed with free will, voluntarily broke the law and took cocaine, an illegal drug known to be unusually addictive and potentially fatal, and thereby died."

I do not mean to sound cruel or uncaring; I suffer for the loss of young promise and for the families of these young men, dead before their time — in a sense like tragic heroes of old. But I am talking about how our society today expresses it-

Georgie Anne Geyer is a nationally syndicated columnist.

Whether it's the tragic drug deaths or other matters, it's important that we be very careful when describing and defining the situation. Cocaine may kill — but that is not the point.

self about these tragedies, for, in the end, language subtly tells us better than anything else what a people thinks about itself and about its destiny.

Language is a funny and wondrous thing. When I learned German, the first of my five languages, I studied it in Vienna, where I was at the university, and could not say a word. I studied some more with a tutor and then sat for hours writing out the grammar by myself. Then one weekend, I went home with two Austrian girlfriends, and suddenly I was speaking ... and speaking ... and speaking.

It is impossible to express in words the experience. I suddenly seemed to be a second being. I was within and without myself at the same time. It was, at once, an emotional, intellectual, and deeply physical thrill, the likes of which I had never experienced before. A world opened to me at the moment this new language was conceived inside me.

Then, as I learned other languages, I began, so to love and to study their structures. It soon became clear that you could know so

much about a people — the Germans with their long, incredibly involved words and complex grammar, the Russians with their seemingly endless number of cases to confuse you — from knowing the language and even from studying their history.

As our language shows, we are now beginning to blame things outside ourselves for things that we have initiated. In our leadership, we have looked for kicky and/or charismatic leaders, instead of the rational managerial leaders who could really deal with our problems seriously. As our national celebrations show, we revel in the hyped emotional Hollywood moment instead of celebrating the deeper memories of our heritage.

The sociologists would, of course, have lots of good explanations for this. An increased welfare state has created an American type that believes society to be responsible for every ill. The illness, if not death, of the Puritan ethic has dimmed the old idea and imperative of personal responsibility. Our lowered cultural levels and lack of any sense of history as a nation have led to dependence upon the charismatic leader and his magic.

Television's abominable grammar (if one more anchorperson uses "I" when he should use "me," I am going to scream!) has tarnished the beauty of the English language.

All of these are negative traits, which, most unfortunately, we can now trace in our society and which, if continued to much greater extremes, will doom America in effect to second-rate status in the next quarter-century.

So, yes, I do think: it's important that, whether it's the tragic drug deaths or other matters, we be very careful when describing and defining the situation. Cocaine may kill — but that is not the point.

Weep for real tragedies

BEVERLY BECKHAM | Save tears shed over Bias who didn't have to die

TWO weeks ago, the name Len Bias meant nothing to me. I don't watch basketball. I don't read the sports page. I first heard his name when I heard about his death. The newscasters that day talked of nothing else. I listened to Red Auerbach and Larry Bird and men whose names I didn't recognize extoll this young athlete. Everyone of them referred to Bias as a "good kid," an "excellent kid," "a kid who was always smiling."

It wasn't until I read the newspaper that I found out Len Bias was 22, a man, not a kid. But who's quibbling. I suppose in the wide world of sports everyone's just a kid.

Len Bias' age aside for a minute, it was difficult even for someone not emotionally involved to listen to all the news, to read the papers and not feel sorry for the guy. He'd made it to the top. All his dreams were coming true. And then some cruel fate snatched him away.

Or so I heard again and again.

Then the whispers began. Cocaine was found in his car. Cocaine was detected in his blood. Still, the people who knew him insisted his death could not have been drug related. "I swear on my life, I hope to die if this kid ever used drugs before," Bias's college basketball coach, Lefty Driesell said.

I only hope that Driesell has his life insurance in order because Bias' death *was* caused by drugs. It was not the result of happenstance, fate or some rare disease as speculated. Still the grieving continues, the media and public bent over, beating their chests muttering, "Oh, what a shame" and "Gee, that poor kid."

Give me a break.

"Len's death is a warning from

God," his mother now says. God "lifted Len up so everyone, especially the young people, would grasp hold of him and just love him."

Now I know Mrs. Bias needs a reason for her son's death. We all need reasons — for the lump, the disease, the accident that sends us scurrying back to God.

But wait a minute. Does anyone actually believe that Len Bias snorted cocaine because God made him? That The Almighty called a meeting of all his angels and said, "Hey guys, take a look-see down there. These people are blowing themselves away, snorting coke, getting high. We've got to show them the light! Give them a sign. We'll use Bias. That'll get their attention."

Come on. God is not a public relations man, despite what they tell you on the 700 Club. He isn't behind this. Pleasure is. Instant gratification. The if-it-feels-good-do-it school of thought. God didn't take Bias' life. Bias took his own. Bias looked at whatever it was that killed him and made a choice.

Maybe he thought for a minute, of his family, of the Celtics, of the real "kids" as in children who look up to him. Or maybe he didn't. Maybe he thought only about the stuff he was about to inhale. I don't know. It doesn't even matter at this point. But I'm sure of one thing: You don't make a saint out of a drug user. You don't go around saying, "Poor Lenny. Look what happened to him." If you've got any sense of right and wrong, you save your tears, your sympathy and your grief for the people who deserve it — the people who didn't choose their disabilities, the people who die before they've had a chance to live.

You grieve when a baby is born disabled, when the prognosis for that life is a wheelchair and operations and hospital and pain. Always pain. "Why am I like this Mommy? Does God hate me?"

You grieve when a young, vibrant woman with a baby and a toddler finds a lump one spring day and is dead before Christmas.

You grieve when a healthy, handsome guy falls from scaffolding never to walk again, when a fireman has a building crush him, when a cop is shot doing his job.

We have a million legitimate reasons to grieve. The reasons fill the beds at childrens' hospitals across this country, at The Shriner's Burn Institutes, at hospital schools, at rehabilitation centers. Should I go on?

Why aren't we grieving for Samantha Smith's mother? She lost her entire family in a plane crash? And Jimmy Fitts. His parents sent him to Vietnam never to see him again. And what about the plane crash in Newfoundland a few weeks before Christmas? Where are the pictures of the widows raising their children alone? These are the real tragedies. These are the horrible, unfortunate, heart-breaking life situations over which the victim has no control. You grieve for these people because what happened isn't their fault. They are the true victims of circumstance, fate, whatever you want to call it.

But you don't grieve when a man — not a boy — knowingly and stupidly puts a substance into his body that can kill him. You don't pass the buck to God and say it was His will.

Beverly Beckham's column appears on Friday.

The Boston Herald

July 3, 1986

Len Bias, winner-turned-loser

— Len Bias was a loser.

He was a winner for a while, a big winner.

But he turned out to be a loser.

He was a winner at the University of Maryland, a 6-foot, 8-inch, 210-pound all-American slam dunk artist with a leased car and little need to show up for classes. Everyone seemed to know Lenny the basketball star was playing for something more urgent than grades.

Last winter, Regardies, a slick Washington-based business monthly, decided just for fun to calculate how much revenue a basketball superstar is worth to a college. They chose Patrick Ewing at Georgetown University. To those of us who are not all that familiar with the entertainment industry that calls itself college sports, the results were astounding.

Figuring in such factors as extra game attendance during Ewing's years, extra television revenue, extra NCAA playoff revenue, additional attendance attributable to Georgetown's 1982 NCAA championship and additional alumni fund-raising revenue, Regardies concluded Georgetown pulled in an extra \$14.4 million, thanks to Ewing's talents. And all the university had to chip in, Regardies figured, was \$48,600 for a four-year scholarship.

But Ewing got his reward, thanks to the New York Knicks. The Knicks signed him to a contract reported to be worth \$14 million over six years.

This was the brass ring to which Bias aspired. He almost made it. He was first draft pick of the Boston Celtics and second pick overall in the National Basketball Association draft.

"I schemed for three years to get that kid," Red Auerbach, Celtics president, said on ABC-TV's "Nightline."

At 22, the "kid" already had a \$1 million endorsement contract with Reebok athletic shoes in the bag, and millions more if he played his cards right. Unfortunately, he did not.

Less than a couple of days after being drafted by the Celtics, when he must have been feeling his most omnipotent and invulnerable, he took a one-way ride on the white pony. Lady. Snow. Blow. Toot. Nose candy. The big winner turned out to be one more loser. All because of a little cocaine.

"Coke," Richard Pryor once said, "is just God's way of telling you you're making too much money."

It numbs the senses and your common sense.

Drug users ought to be called "losers." That's what they really are.

Clarence Page

That's why people who normally couldn't care less about basketball suddenly find themselves caring about Lenny Bias, Maryland's winner-turned-loser. He was not a poor, struggling ghetto kid caught up in The Life that sucks kids into drug use like mythical Sirens drawing ancient ships to crash on the rocks. He was caught up in a different kind of life, that of the modern athlete.

Somewhere along the line, our athletic world became known less for Jack Armstrong the All-American Boy than for Michael Ray Richardson, John Lucas, John Drew, Quintin Dailey or Walter Davis the drug users. All were NBA players who, like too many other druggies in other sports, made headlines for drug use.

Basketball is a fast game with its own special style and grace. It calls for fast reflexes, quick decisions and an extra set of eyes in the back of your head, a special perception a player once described to writer John McPhee as "a sense of where you are."

According to news reports, Lenny the slam dunker should have had a better sense of where he was. His friends say he was a born-again Christian who used to warn his little brother to stay away from drugs. You have to wonder why this role model for others decided to ignore his own warnings.

He gambled and he lost. Coke kills capriciously, the coroner said. You never know if you can take a little or a lot until it is too late.

And even in nonfatal doses, it is sinister, experts say. It fires up the pleasure centers of the brain and burns them out. No matter how hard you try, you can never get the euphoria of that first high again. Every time you come down, you will feel worse than you did before you went up, because your brain has just that much less of its natural ability to provide any sense of pleasure. And, as with other "hard" drugs, you constantly need heavier doses to get high at all.

His university is retiring Bias' jersey, a distinction normally reserved for athletes who meet their ends by more honorable means.

There have been all kinds of eulogies and poetic quotes to try to make some sense of it all. But I can't help but think of one I saw on somebody's T-shirt: "Reality is for people who can't deal with drugs."

The Chicago Tribune

June 27, 1986

Your Friend, The Grim Reaper

We challenge you to find a more hypocritical argument than the one routinely used by the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Gene Upshaw, president of the National Football League Players Association, about the evils of drug testing. Random testing for drug use, they say, discriminates against young blacks and singles them out for censure by the public. Rather than trammeling these young men's rights by forcing them through humiliating drug tests, they say, team owners should leave the athletes alone and let those in trouble seek help confidentially.

Len Bias and Don Rogers have died of cocaine overdoses in the last two weeks, presumably with their dignity intact — which is to say, neither had been screened for cocaine use in the days prior to their death. Yet it's hard to find anything dignified about the death of Mr. Bias, who keeled over only two days after being drafted by the Boston Celtics, or the death of Mr. Rodgers, a defensive back with the Cleveland Browns, who died on the eve of his wedding after ingesting what a pathologist described as enough cocaine to "kill an elephant."

The two young men — Len Bias was 22, Don Rogers was 23 — were known as gregarious, hard-working, likeable young men. Neither had a reputation for drug abuse. Yet for some reason, they made the same stupid, lethal mistake. They ingested enough cocaine to make their brains shut down and their wildly beating hearts, no longer guided by impulses from the brain, to fill their lungs and chest cavities with blood. Within moments of their cocaine "rushes," both were propelled into the vacuum of death.

In perhaps the greatest indignity of all, their deaths have lured publicity jackals out of hiding. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who, as we have noted, previously opposed random drug testing, took the liberty of inviting himself to the White House to discuss the matter. Mrs. Nancy Reagan, the object of the invitation, still knows nothing about the proposed confab. The Rev. Jackson blamed government for having failed to spend enough money on drug education, without admitting that America's preachers and parents may be responsible for failing to instill in youths the kind of deference to parents or respect for selves that prevents people from experimenting recklessly with drugs.

Gene Upshaw meanwhile has continued to fight drug testing. "This tragedy," he said, speaking of Don Rogers' death, "points out the need for an in-depth program to educate players regarding the risks of drug usage. Drug use is a very complex problem. There is no quick, easy answer.

"We continue to feel that the best way to attack the problem is with a comprehensive program that includes confidentiality, education, counseling rehabilitation, and testing."

Fortunately, a growing number of professional athletes have told "protectors" like Mr. Upshaw to

get lost. Basketball stars Ralph Sampson of the Houston Rockets and Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers have advocated drug testing in professional basketball and in college basketball.

Good for them. It's no secret that athletes represent a high-risk group for drug abuse. A drug culture in sports began taking root in the '60s, when team doctors made the "innovation" of prescribing pain killers and "uppers" for athletes and strength coaches gave anabolic steroids to their young charges. Thus introduced to drug abuse, it was a tiny hop for young men and women to accept cocaine or smack from "friends."

Team owners finally caught on, and several years ago began asking for drug tests on the reasonable ground that drug use demonstrably worsens individuals' abilities to perform and earn

their huge salaries. There's nothing constitutionally suspect in the argument, since courts have approved of drug testing in a number of comparatively "clean" industries, such as auto manufacturing and national security. Nor is there anything suspect about the observation that there's a huge drug problem in professional sports, as last year's baseball drug trials and this year's drug deaths show.

Yet it's unfair to cast the drug-testing controversy as a union-management battle. Athletes bear some responsibility for the problem, since they tried in the past to wish it away, rather than insisting on action from their unions. Fortunately, that's begun to change. The player's union for men's professional tennis has designed and instituted a system of mandatory drug testing which, while offending a few proud souls, may save a few lives.

American athletes, who once were cast as role models for how to succeed in life, now have become tragic symbols of how drugs can kill. While tests can't always prevent the sort of freak accident that claimed the life of Len Bias — he had been screened three weeks before his death — they can serve as a powerful deterrent to future drug use. And athletes can change their image as victims of their own weaknesses by showing society they know how to take tough, positive steps to limit the chance that their friends and colleagues will snort themselves into oblivion.



JOHN HUGHES

Drugs and the individual

LEN Bias, the basketball player who could jump through the roof, had everything going for him.

He was in perfect health. He was an outstanding athlete. He was about to be received into the magical circle of the Boston Celtics.

Though fame and money could not ensure happiness, both lay within his grasp. A lifetime of satisfaction and fulfillment seemed ahead.

At 22, he cast all this away in a few seconds of stupidity designed to produce a few minutes of unnatural stimulation induced by cocaine.

Across the Atlantic, Olivia Channon, also 22, was talented and pretty, the daughter of a millionaire and British Cabinet minister.

She had been to prestigious Oxford University and it was in a room there, after celebrating the end of final examinations, that she was found dead after a binge on drugs and alcohol. Though apparently not a regular heroin user, she had the drug in her bloodstream.

The waste of any life and talent is tragic. The loss through drugs of young men and women on the brink of achievement is doubly so.

Why do they do it?

What can the rest of us do to help?

We can, of course, do more to mobilize against the big-time drug traffickers. There are thought to be some 6 million regular cocaine users in the United States. The main cocaine-producing countries are Bolivia and Colombia. The US could show those two countries that it really means business when it comes to stopping the export of cocaine.

The military could be used to supplement the thinly stretched resources of the Coast Guard and drug enforcement agencies. The Pentagon is not happy

about this prospect; it believes its weapons should be kept sharply honed for war. Some would argue, however, that drugs pose as great a threat to national security as alien ideology and hostile rocketry.

Some have suggested tougher handling of convicted drug dealers. Columnist James J. Kilpatrick is quoted: "Capital punishment may not be much of a deterrent against murder, but the sight of a few corpses swinging from a scaffold might work with drug dealers."

More manpower and resources, improved techniques for interdiction of drug shipments, perhaps more draconian punishment — all this might help cut down the flow of imported drugs.

But the problem will not, I think, be solved until individuals' appetite for drugs fades away. Some 15 years ago, I spent five months investigating the illegal narcotics traffic around the world. Since then, law enforcement agencies have improved. Old traffic patterns have been closed off, but new ones have opened up. Some of the old drugs are no longer so much in use, but different ones have supplanted them.

Fifteen years later, it still all comes back to the individual. I remember the musings of a United Nations official in Geneva: "Programs to cut back drugs are important . . . but this is basically cops-and-robbers stuff."

"It all ends up with the user, the addict. The solution to his problem must be a metaphysical one. He has to work out the riddle: What is man? And can he find himself through drugs?"

At Len Bias's funeral, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said: "On a day the children mourn, I hope they learn."

The lesson is that drugs turned even a winner like Len Bias into a loser.

James J. Kilpatrick

Drug consumers, not dealers, are the problem

WASHINGTON — For the past 10 days the local papers have been filled with the sad story of Len Bias. Here was a young man, 22 years old, who let fame and fortune slip through his hands, all for a slug of pure cocaine.

In the world of college basketball, Bias had just about everything. He was an all-star. He had signed a contract with the Boston Celtics that would have brought him an estimated \$2 million a year in salary and product endorsements.

To celebrate his departure from the University of Maryland, he went to a party with a few of his teammates. Somebody said, "Try this." The coroner said it may have been the first time Bias ever had known cocaine. Moments later the athlete was dead.

His death lanced a boil. Over the next few days it transpired that Bias, brilliant on the court, was a failure in the classroom. After four academic years at Maryland, he was still 21 credits short of earning a degree. During his last semester, he had enrolled in five courses. He withdrew from two of them and got F's in the other three.

More facts became public: Of 12 players on the Maryland team, five had flunked out of school. Wendy Whittemore, academic counselor to men's basketball, resigned. She said, in an understatement, that education was not a top priority among her charges.

The Washington Post rounded up data from other colleges: "At Georgia Tech, one of the three seniors on the team graduated this spring. None of the three seniors on Clemson's team or the two seniors playing for North Carolina State graduated."

Interviews with coaches and players tended to put blame on the strenuous schedule and the wearisome travel demanded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The players can pass undemanding courses, but they find it all but impossible to study for the tough ones.

Six months ago, following a damaging lawsuit, the University of Georgia went through the same agonizing soul-searching that the University of Maryland is experiencing now. Dozens of other colleges and universities are in the same boat.

What price glory? Winning football and basketball teams earn money the institutions sorely need. All-star athletes are heroes to alumni. The players are housed in separate dormitories, fed special diets, cosseted with remedial education and private tutors. They are today's Roman gladiators, stars of a coliseum. But what has a university done for them? It has profited from their athletic skills, but in too many cases the university has not insisted upon the development of academic skills as well.

Len Bias was a marvelous shot and a whiz at rebounds, but in terms of the cultural and intellectual values that are supposed to go with higher education, he was a cipher.

Whose fault? Let us recall Pogo's famous line: We have met the enemy and it is us. Cocaine would not be so tempting to the young if it had not become the drug of choice of 5 million adults. Drug dealers are not the problem. Drug consumers are the problem.

The marketplace figures in other aspects of the Len Bias story. Colleges compete furiously for the most promising athletic talent coming out of high school. The supply is limited; the demand is great. Professional teams wait avidly for the draft of players. We are talking of money, of gate receipts, of salaries in six and seven figures. Why are such salaries paid? Because the fans turn out and buy tickets.

Is it any wonder that values get subordinated? In the hours immediately after Len Bias died, there was an evident rush to hush things up. No one close to the young man wanted to talk to police. Truth became hostage to the university's reputation. Now a grand jury investigation is in prospect, but no grand jury is equipped to get at the bottom of this story. The grand jury will not ask the right questions and it will not return the right indictments.

Society as a whole is beyond a grand jury's writ, and it is in that hungry and hypocritical realm that the trouble lies. The mania for collegiate sports is just that — a mania, a form of mental illness that infects coaches, college presidents, boards of trustees, state legislators and the press. Some institutions successfully resist the disease. Others succumb, and the integrity of the academic process suffers.

Whom the gods would destroy, said Sophocles, they first make mad. Sophocles had it just about right. — (c1986.)

The message: 'We're fed up, tired of drugs'

Would you object to being tested?

Yes . . . 21%
No . . . 77%
Not sure 2%

By Sam Meddis
USA TODAY

Drug testing in the work place — a hot new front in the drug war — has broad support across the nation, a new USA TODAY poll shows.

In a week that a presidential commission called for drug tests on federal workers and asked private firms to consider the same, the poll

finds:

■ 62 percent of us support mandatory drug testing for federal workers and employees of government contractors; 29 percent oppose.

■ 43 percent are for drug testing in private firms, and 48 percent are against it.

■ But the overwhelming majority of us — 77 percent — would not object to being tested in the workplace.

"What you're seeing overall is that the American public is saying, 'We're fed up. We're tired of drugs. And whatever it takes to do it, let's do it,'" says Carlton Turner, director of the White House Drug Abuse Policy Office.

The survey of 762 adults randomly selected across the USA was conducted Tuesday and Wednesday nights by the Gordon S. Black Corp. of Rochester, N.Y. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

Drug-testing support comes from people like Gretchen Brenner, 40, of Kansas City, Mo., a Veterans Administration dental assistant — one of the people who could be screened if the commission's recommendation is adopted.

"If people feel their jobs are in jeopardy, they wouldn't be so willing to take drugs," she says.

Brenner and her co-workers have discussed the possibility that screening could violate constitutional rights.

"But I don't care," says Brenner. "I didn't want to be forced to put a smoke detector in my home, but I felt it was for my own good."

The survey findings come at a time when many sectors are feeling a big drug-testing push:

■ The National Collegiate Athletic Association introduces drug testing next school term in all sports championships. In the poll, 69 percent favor testing college athletes; 26 percent oppose.

■ The Federal Aviation Administration tests 24,000 air controllers and safety inspectors this fall.

■ By early summer, the Customs Service starts testing up to 14,000 employees.

■ The Drug Enforcement Administration plans to randomly test 2,400 staffers.

■ About 26 percent of Fortune 500 companies already screen applicants and employees.

Just March 1, Du Pont Co. — which employs 110,000 — began drug testing for new job applicants.

The number of companies testing will double within a year, says J. Michael Walsh of the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

Today, his panel of industry and drug abuse experts will issue a report on drugs in the workplace. It is expected to call for more research on tests and for policies that treat drug abuse as health and safety issues, not law enforcement ones.

"Technology has just reached the stage where testing has real utility," says National Institute of Justice head James Stewart.

For the past 18 months, the justice institute has sponsored testing of 24,000 people arrested in New York City and Washington, D.C. Accuracy of the test: 95-98 percent.

In general, most testing involves urine samples. If a drug is present, a chemical reaction occurs, and then a computer analyzes the result. Most commonly tested drugs: cocaine, barbiturates, amphetamines, marijuana, Qualaludes, opiates and PCP.

Proponents call testing a powerful weapon in the drug war. The demand for illegal drugs is vast. The \$110 billion industry feeds more than 20 million regular marijuana users, 6 million regular cocaine users and about 500,000 heroin users, among others.

Some experts say testing could backfire.

Barbara Cooper-Gordon, who runs the drug treatment program at New York's Beth Israel Medical Center, daily sees such drug abusers as teachers, nurses, doctors, Wall Street lawyers and stockbrokers.

Cooper-Gordon calls mass screenings a "witch hunt."

Employers could better spend money educating managers on how to spot drug problems, she says, such as watching for declining job performance, increased absenteeism and mood swings.

John Hardgraves, 25, a tutor at Jersey City (N.J.) State College, disagrees. He is against "drugs for anybody." He believes workers should be tested "every two weeks."

Widespread testing could be expensive — between \$4 and \$10 per sample for the most common urine exams and about \$30 for a more sophisticated test.

Allan Adler of the American Civil Liberties Union says many of us — frustrated by the government's stalemated drug battle — are getting caught in an anti-drug frenzy.

"People are not aware of the fallibility of the test or the scope of the invasion of personal privacy," he says.

Medications for physical and psychological disorders can throw off results, and tests can't distinguish between a chronic user and an occasional off-the-job user, he says. A bad test could ruin someone's reputation.

But Arthur Brill of the President's Commission on Organized Crime — which proposed testing this week — says screening is "no different in concept than all of us taking vision tests before getting a driver's license."

The poll also found:

■ 55 percent agree testing would be a violation of privacy rights; 37 percent do not. "I think I would only object if I were guilty," says Marie McCawley, 67, a Dunedin, Fla. homemaker. "I'm in favor of anything that will get rid of drugs."

■ Most of us — 91 percent — would let first-time offenders off with a warning. Only 27 percent favored work suspension.

■ Most concern focused on jobs involving public safety — "things directly relating to life and death," says Lisa Quiambo, 24, a Wheaton, Ill., nurse.

And 64 percent favor testing for professional athletes. Baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, who recently disciplined 21 players for drug use, has vowed baseball will be drug-free this season.

Amateur sports ranked as high: 65 percent favor testing for high school players.

But National Federation of State High School Associations, which represents interscholastic sports programs across the USA, supports drug education rather than testing.

Forrest Varlin, a maintenance supervisor in Los Angeles, backs testing but thinks "people are picking on athletes a little more than other people. They are in the limelight a little more."

While everyone wants to end drug abuse, many wonder if the risks of drug testing outweigh the benefits.

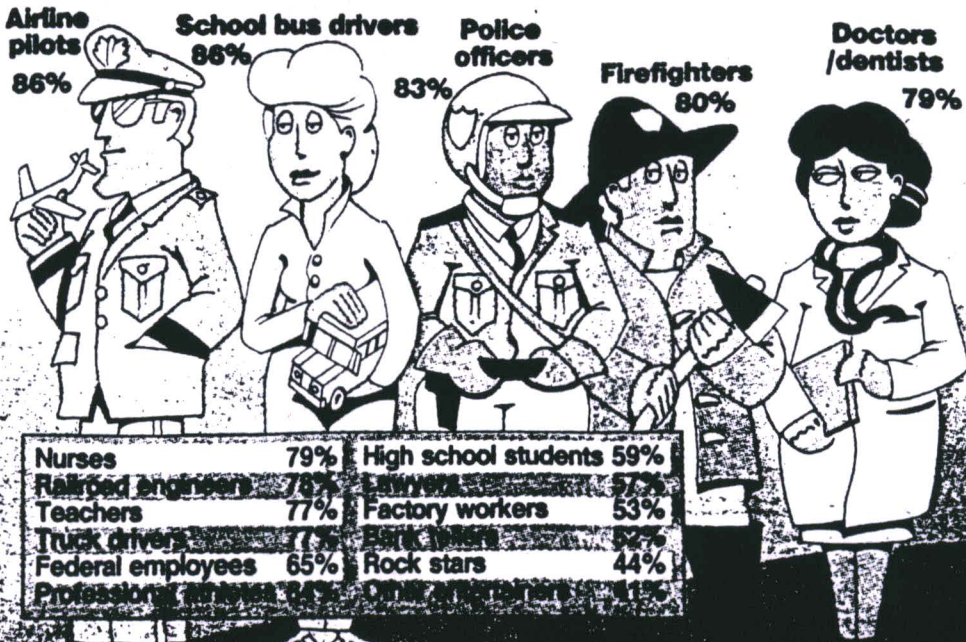
Former Justice Department official Jeff Harris worries that "wholesale" screenings could open the door to other personal intrusions — perhaps into workers' sex lives or finances.

"My concern," he says, "is where does it stop."

Contributing: Patrick O'Driscoll, Darcy Trick, Susan Allen, Wayne Beissert

Poll: We back drug tests

Who should be tested?



Source: Gordon S. Black Corp. - USA TODAY poll

By Bob Laird, USA TODAY

TODAY'S DEBATE: Fight drug pushers, don't test everybody, 10A



By Bob Riba Jr., USA TODAY
FORREST VARLIN: L.A. man favors testing but 'people are picking on athletes.'



By Daniel M. White
GRETCHEN BRENNER: Federal worker in Kansas City strongly backs tests.



By Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY
JOHN HARDGRAVES: New Jersey college tutor is against 'drugs for anybody.'